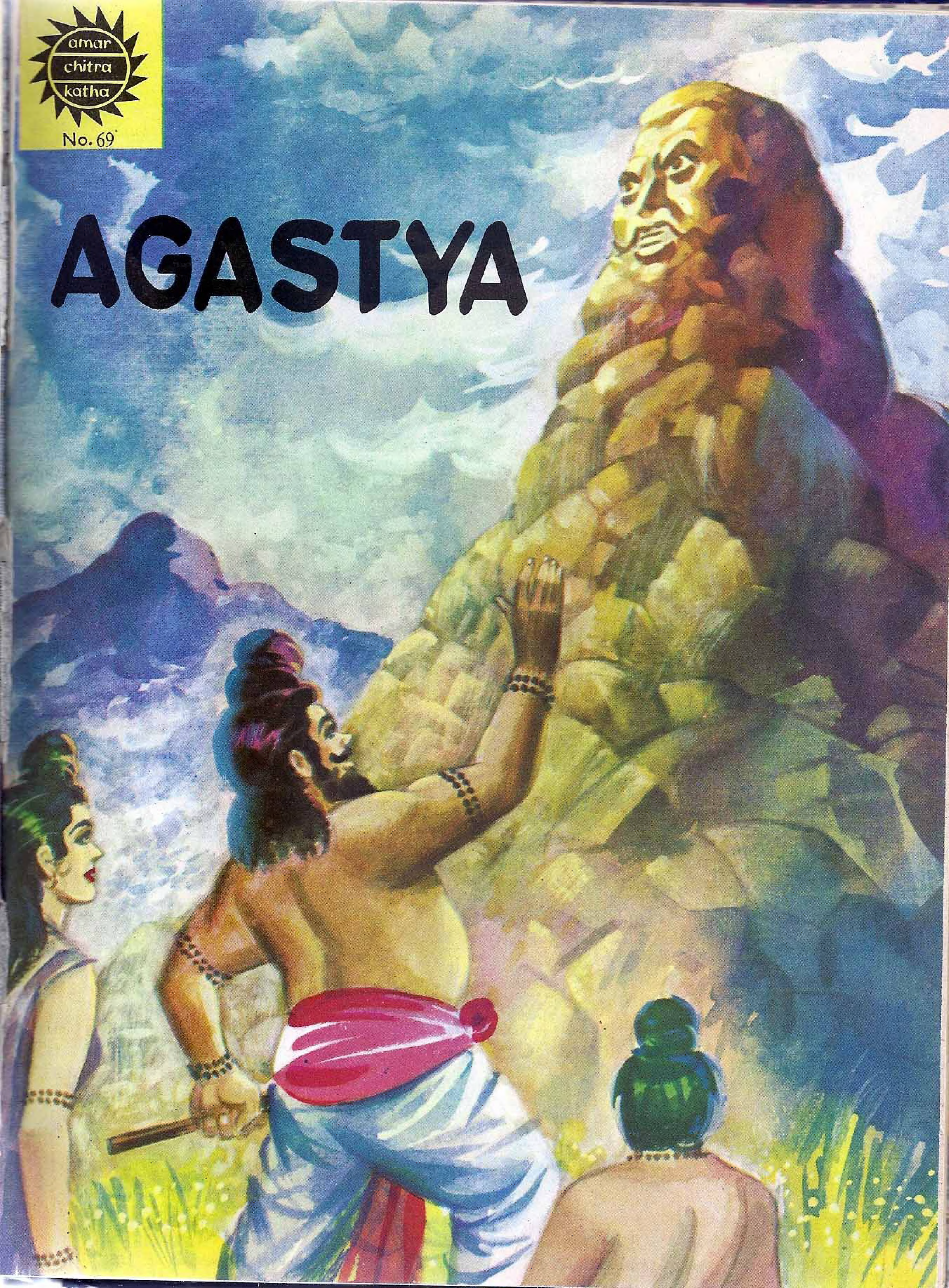




# AGASTYA





Agastya is perhaps the most famous of the Rishis of India. His exploits are as well-known in the South of India as in the North. Agastya, besides, is a familiar figure in South-East Asian mythology, too.

Scattered over the *Vedas*, the *Brahmanas* and the *Puranas*, the references to Agastya are far too numerous to be coherent. Yet there are some points where the diverse accounts seem to converge. For instance there is general agreement that he was born in a jar, which gave him the name Kumbha - Sambhava; that his wife was Lopamudra; that he often acted as the friend, guide and philosopher to Indra; that though almost a dwarf in size he had disciplined himself to achieve incredible feats of strength, and last but not least, he had had close links with the land to the south of the Vindhya mountains.

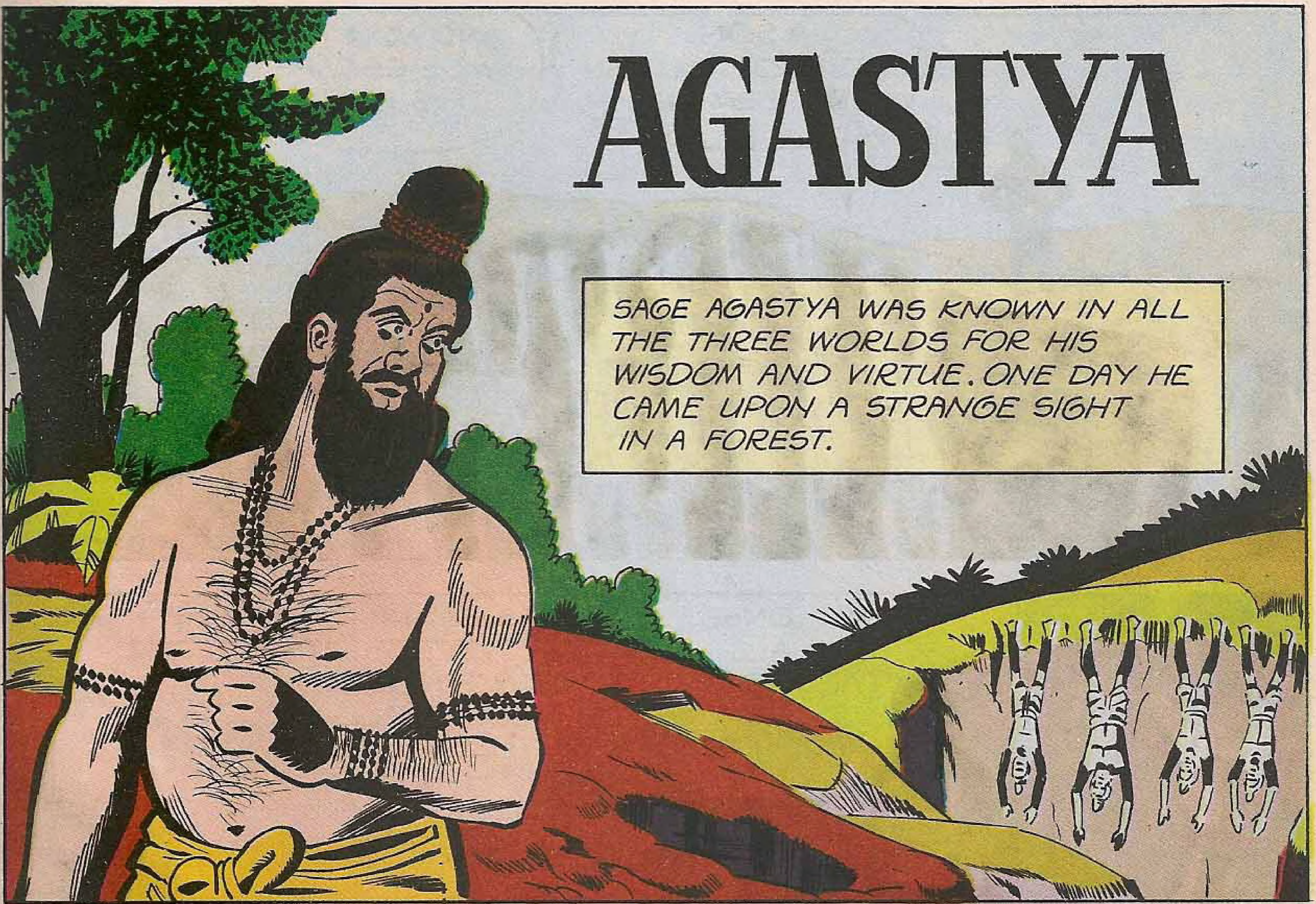
Parallels to the stories in Sanskrit are popular in Tamil. Some scholars identify Agastya as the author of the hoary Tamil treatise, "AKATTIYAM" and as the teacher of the author of "TOLKAPPIYAM", the oldest extant work on linguistics in Tamil.

Whatever may be the verdict on these disputed details, Agastya's role in the cultural integration of our country appears to have been important and significant,



# AGASTYA

SAGE AGASTYA WAS KNOWN IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS FOR HIS WISDOM AND VIRTUE. ONE DAY HE CAME UPON A STRANGE SIGHT IN A FOREST.

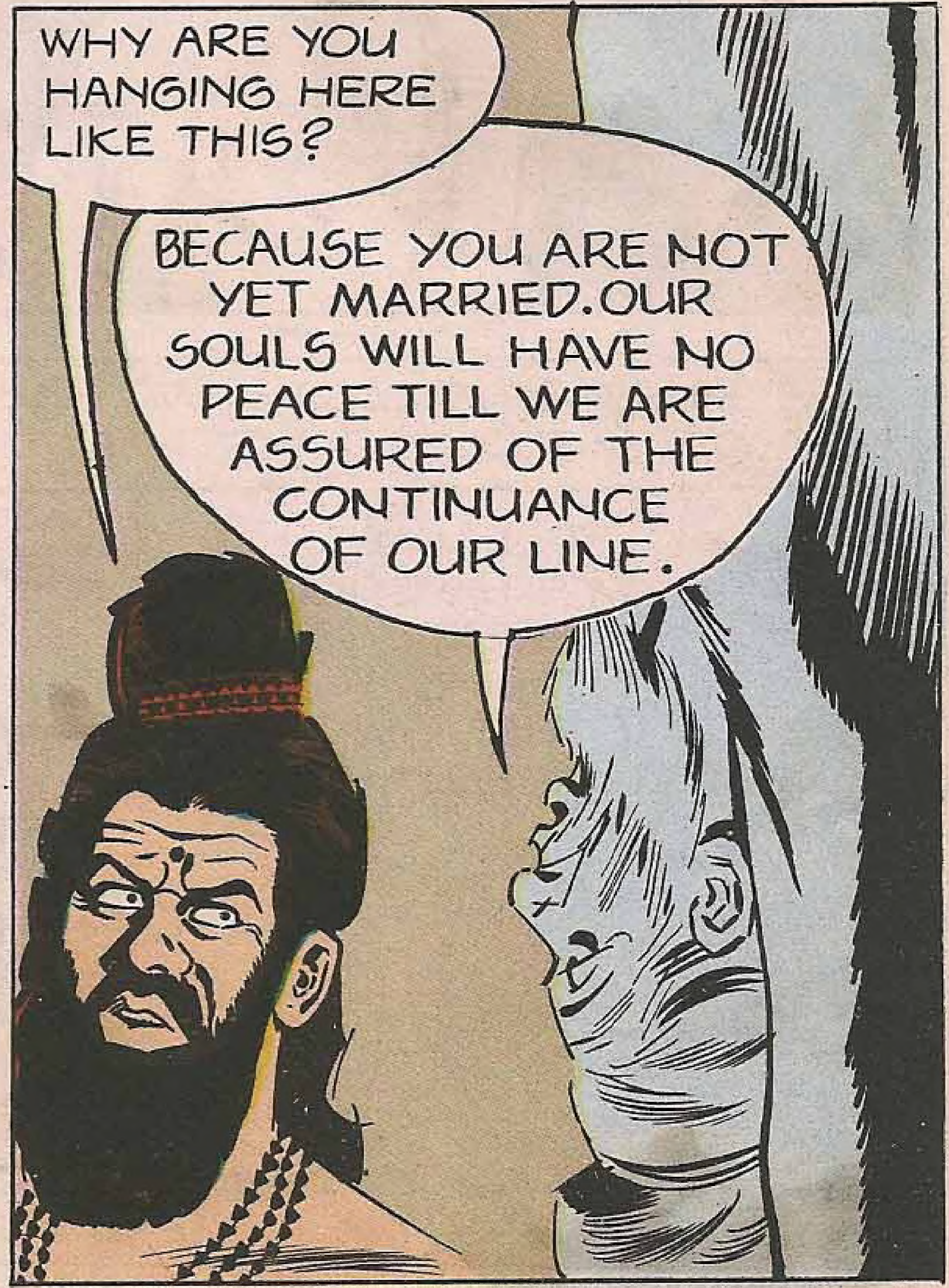


WHO COULD THEY BE?

WE ARE YOUR ANCESTORS.

WHY ARE YOU HANGING HERE LIKE THIS?

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT YET MARRIED. OUR SOULS WILL HAVE NO PEACE TILL WE ARE ASSURED OF THE CONTINUANCE OF OUR LINE.

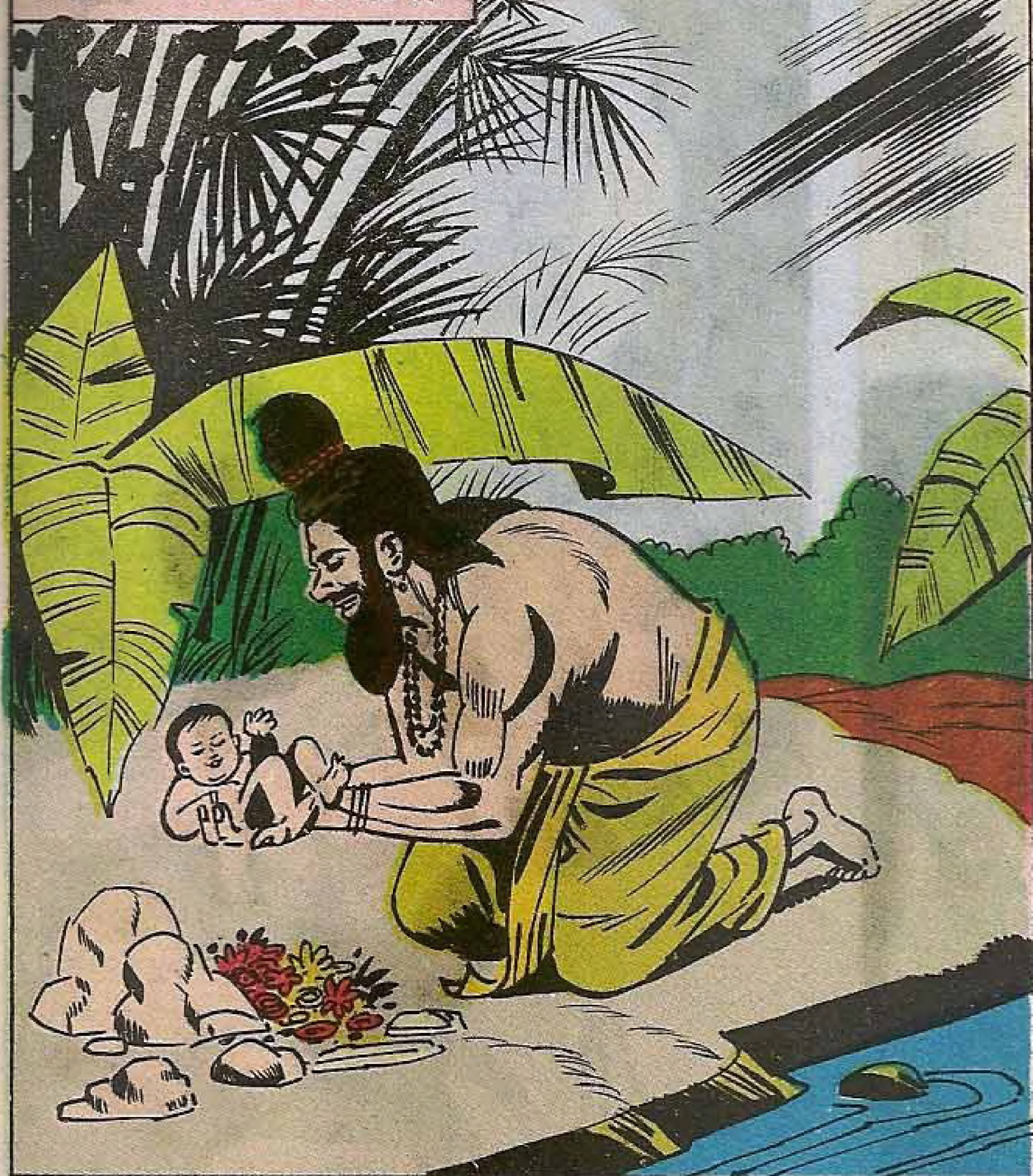






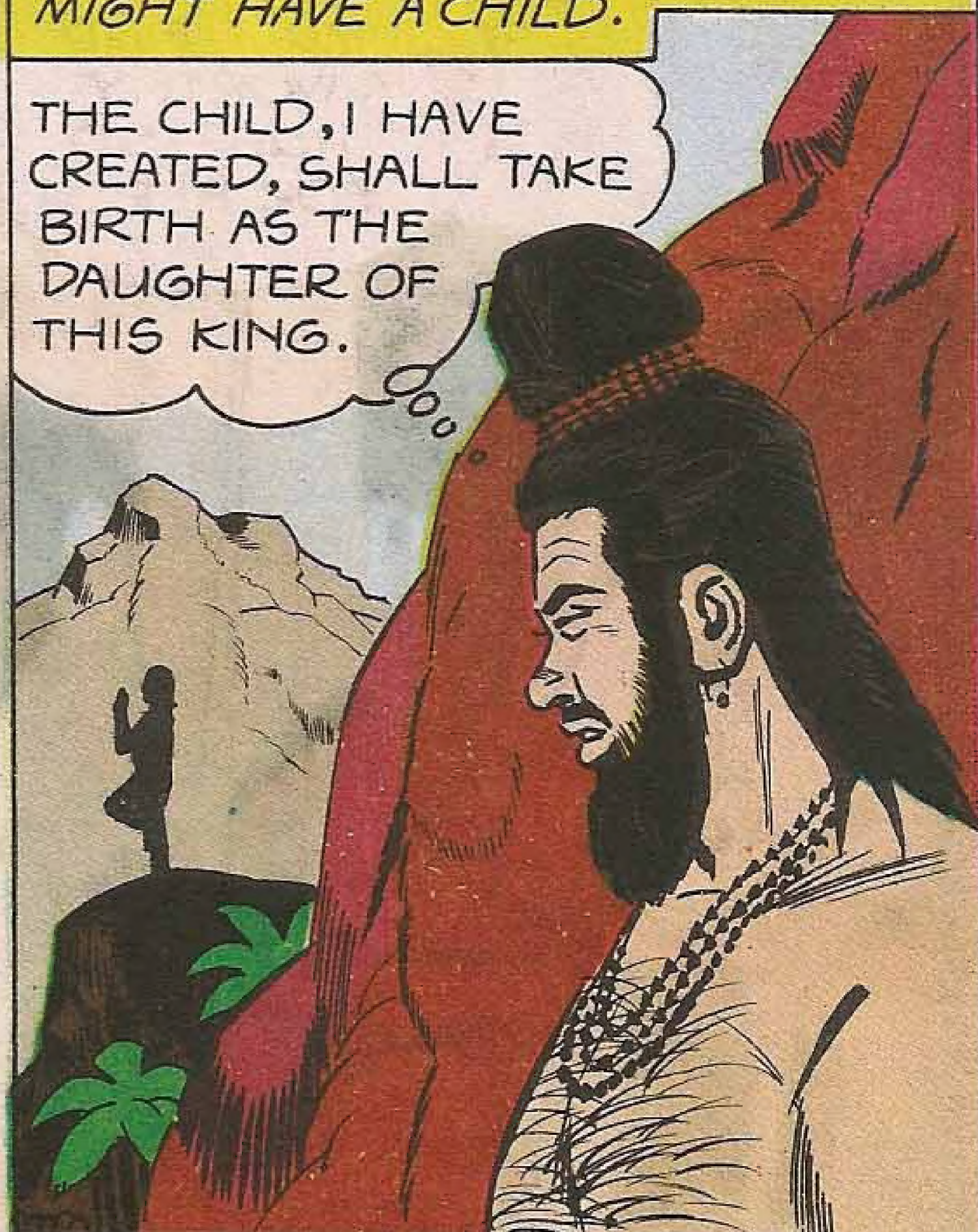


AND SO DID AGASTYA CREATE A BEAUTIFUL BABY.



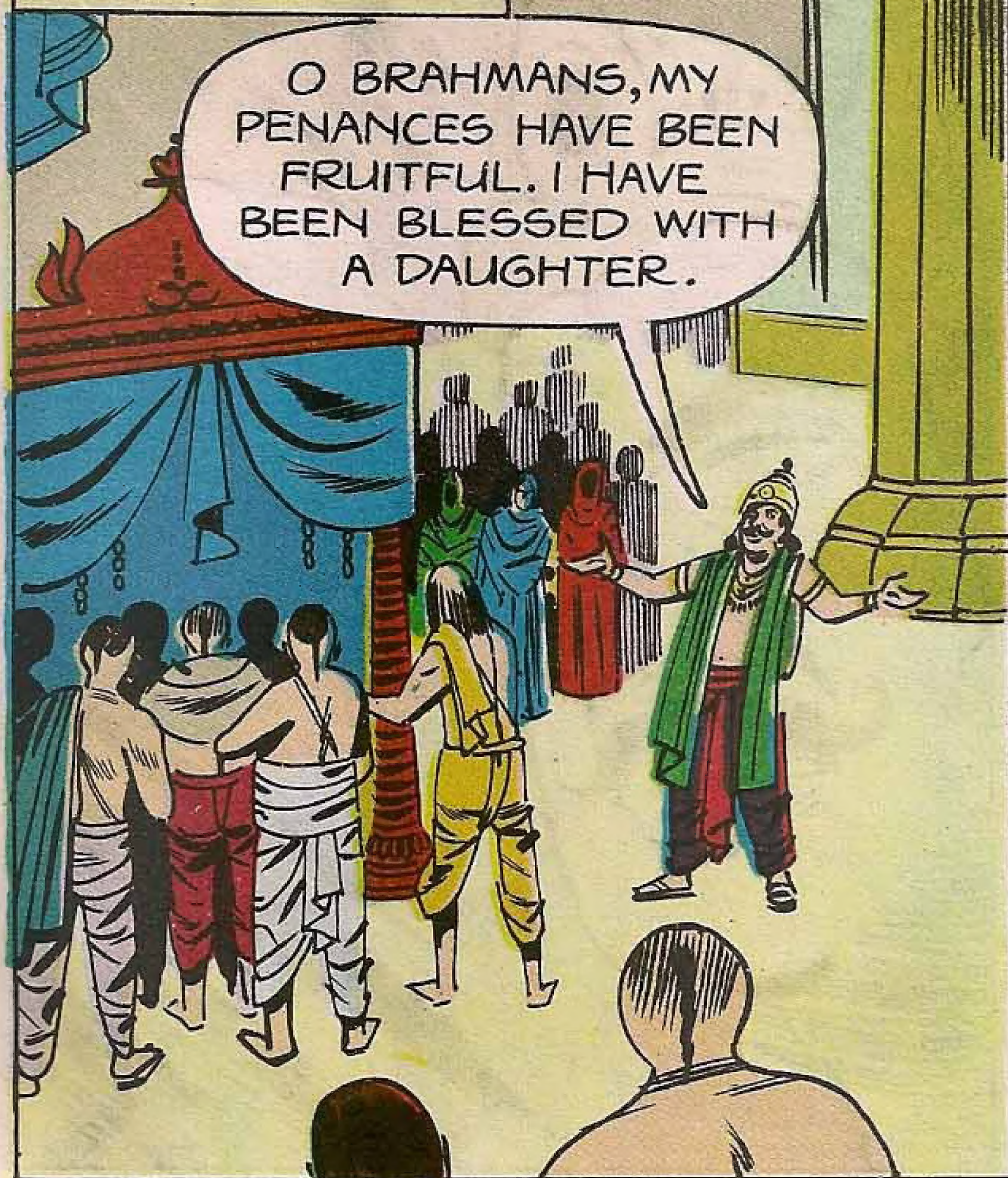
AT THAT TIME THE KING OF VIDARBHA WAS PERFORMING SEVERE PENANCES SO THAT HE MIGHT HAVE A CHILD.

THE CHILD, I HAVE CREATED, SHALL TAKE BIRTH AS THE DAUGHTER OF THIS KING.



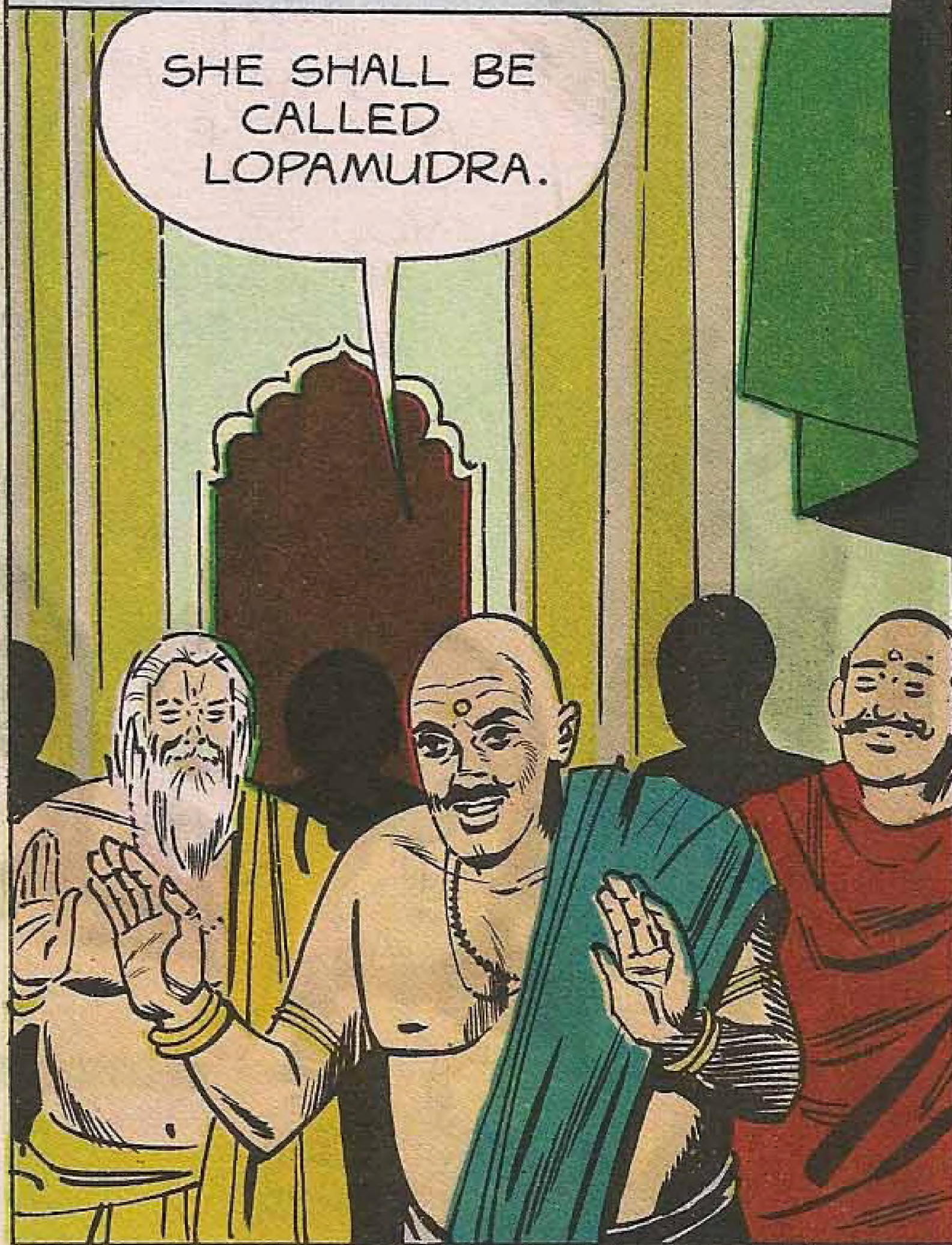
A FEW MONTHS LATER THE QUEEN GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY. THE KING WAS OVERJOYED.

O BRAHMANS, MY PENANCES HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL. I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A DAUGHTER.



THE BRAHMANS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE CHILD.

SHE SHALL BE CALLED LOPAMUDRA.





LOPAMUDRA GREW UP INTO A BEAUTIFUL AND VIRTUOUS GIRL.

I MUST FIND A WORTHY HUSBAND FOR HER.



MEANWHILE—

LOPAMUDRA MUST NOW BE READY FOR MARRIAGE. I SHALL GO TO HER FATHER AND ASK FOR HER HAND.



HE WENT TO THE KING.

I WISH TO MARRY AND BEGET A SON. WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR DAUGHTER?



THE KING WAS TROUBLED.

HOW CAN I? BUT I DARE NOT DISPLEASE AGASTYA.





JUST THEN LOPAMUDRA  
CAME IN.

FATHER,  
WHY DO  
YOU  
HESITATE?  
I AM WILLING  
TO MARRY  
THE GREAT  
SAGE.

SO SHALL  
IT BE.



AGASTYA MARRIED  
LOPAMUDRA.



AFTER THE WEDDING -

LOPAMUDRA, YOUR  
ROYAL ROBES DO  
NOT BEFIT A SAGE'S  
WIFE. DISCARD  
THEM.

HENCEFORTH  
I SHALL  
WEAR ONLY  
BARK AND SKIN  
AND RAGS  
MY LORD.



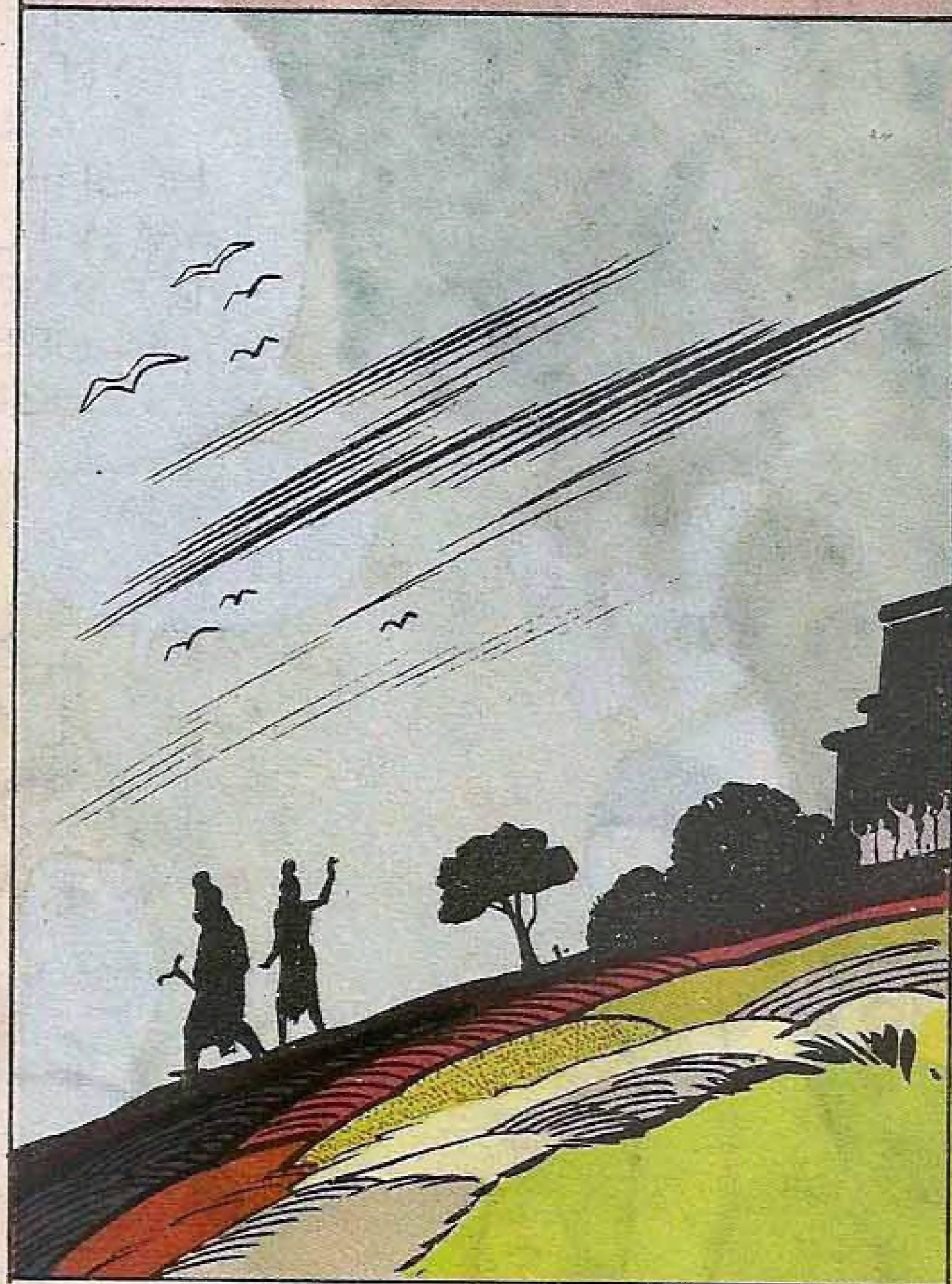


LOPAMUDRA CAST OFF HER COSTLY ROBES.

COME, LOPAMUDRA. WE WILL GO TO MY HERMITAGE AT GANGOTRI.

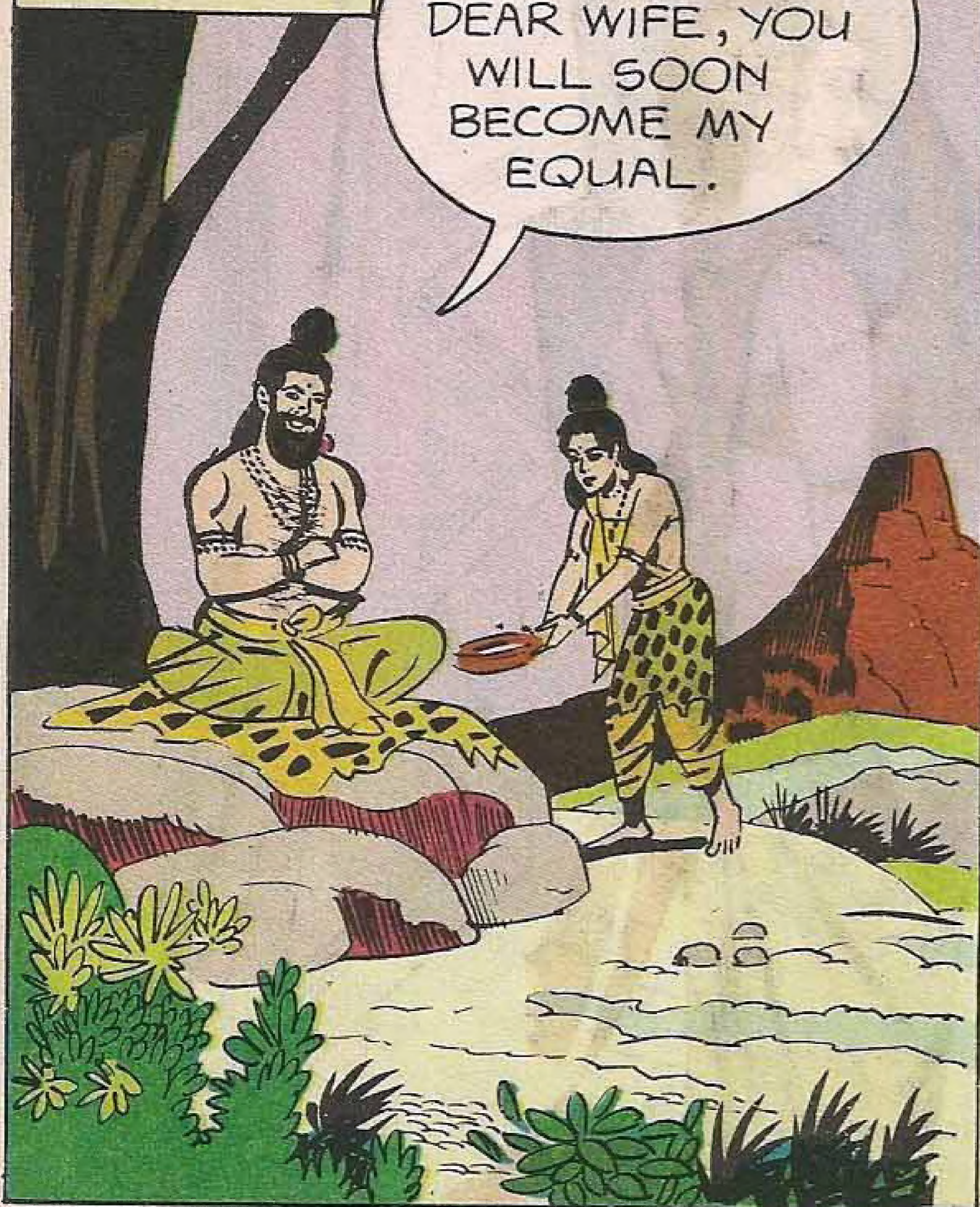


BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE SAD PARENTS, AGASTYA LEFT VIDARBHA WITH HIS WIFE.



AT GANGOTRI, LOPAMUDRA HELPED AGASTYA IN HIS SEVERE PENANCES.

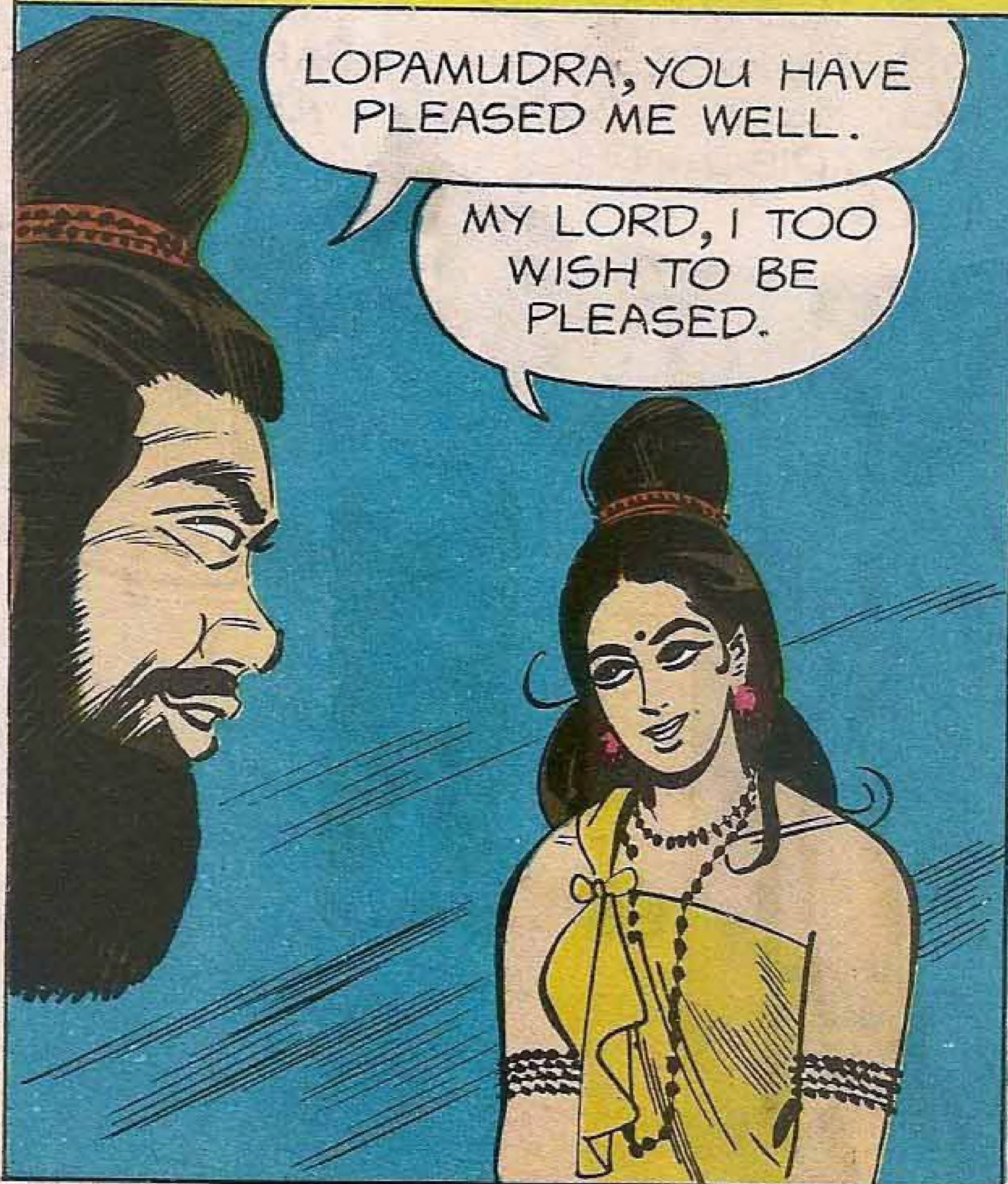
DEAR WIFE, YOU WILL SOON BECOME MY EQUAL.



THE DAYS PASSED AND LOPAMUDRA SERVED HER HUSBAND MOST EXCELLENTLY. ONE DAY-

LOPAMUDRA, YOU HAVE PLEASED ME WELL.

MY LORD, I TOO WISH TO BE PLEASED.





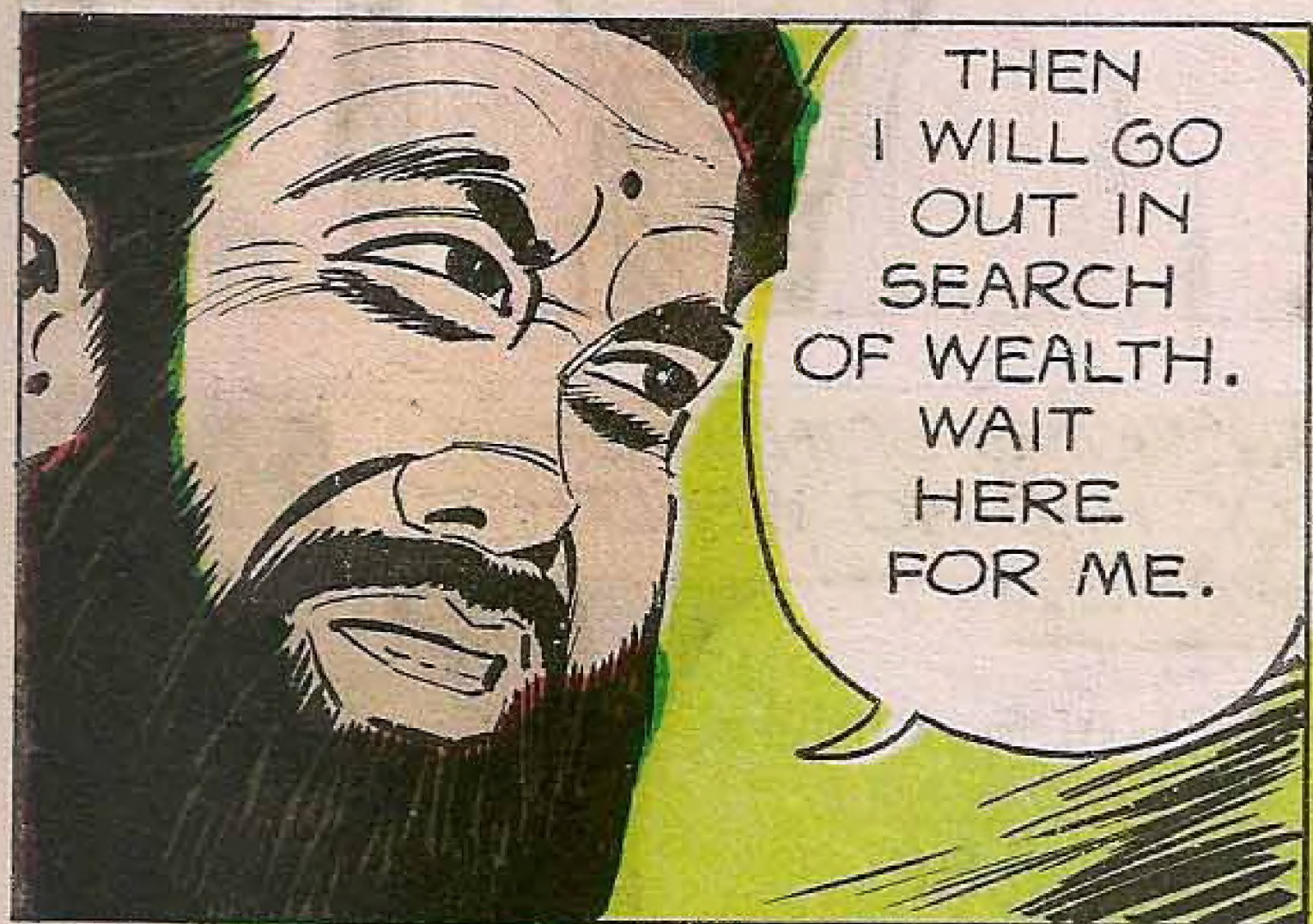


WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?

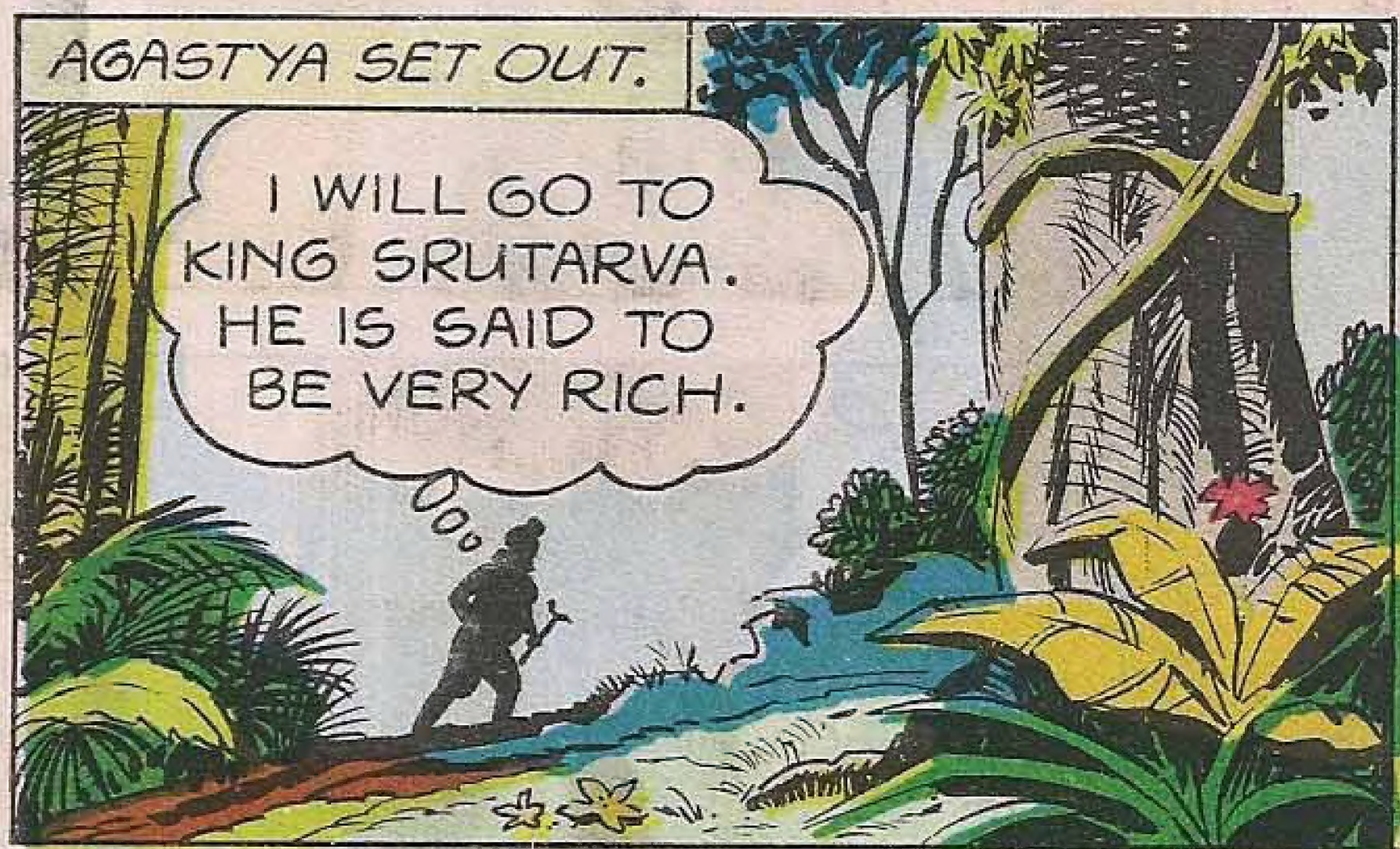
WE ARE HOUSEHOLDERS. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT WRONG FOR US TO POSSESS WEALTH.



LORD, I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE AS I DID IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

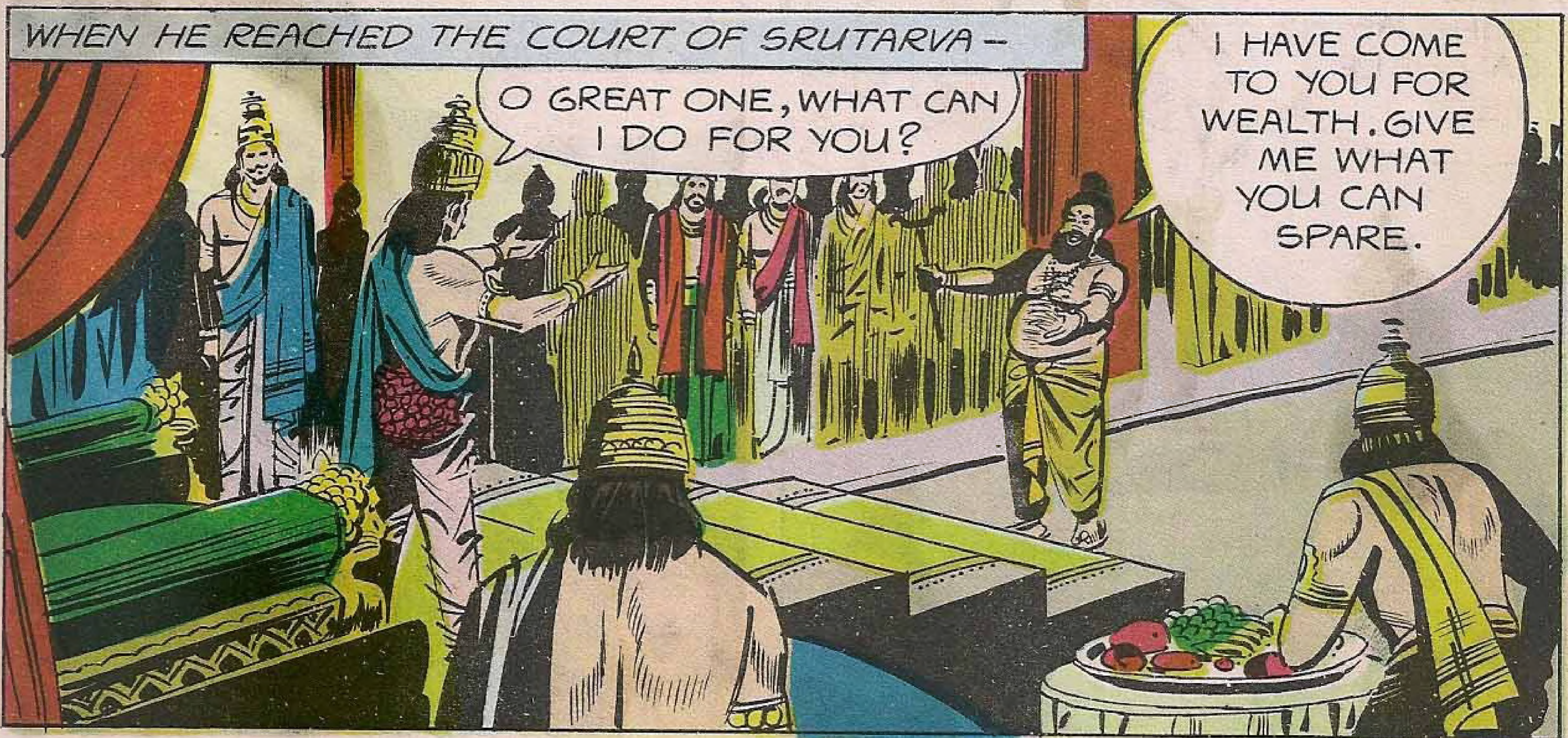


THEN I WILL GO OUT IN SEARCH OF WEALTH. WAIT HERE FOR ME.



AGASTYA SET OUT.

I WILL GO TO KING SRUTARVA. HE IS SAID TO BE VERY RICH.



WHEN HE REACHED THE COURT OF SRUTARVA -

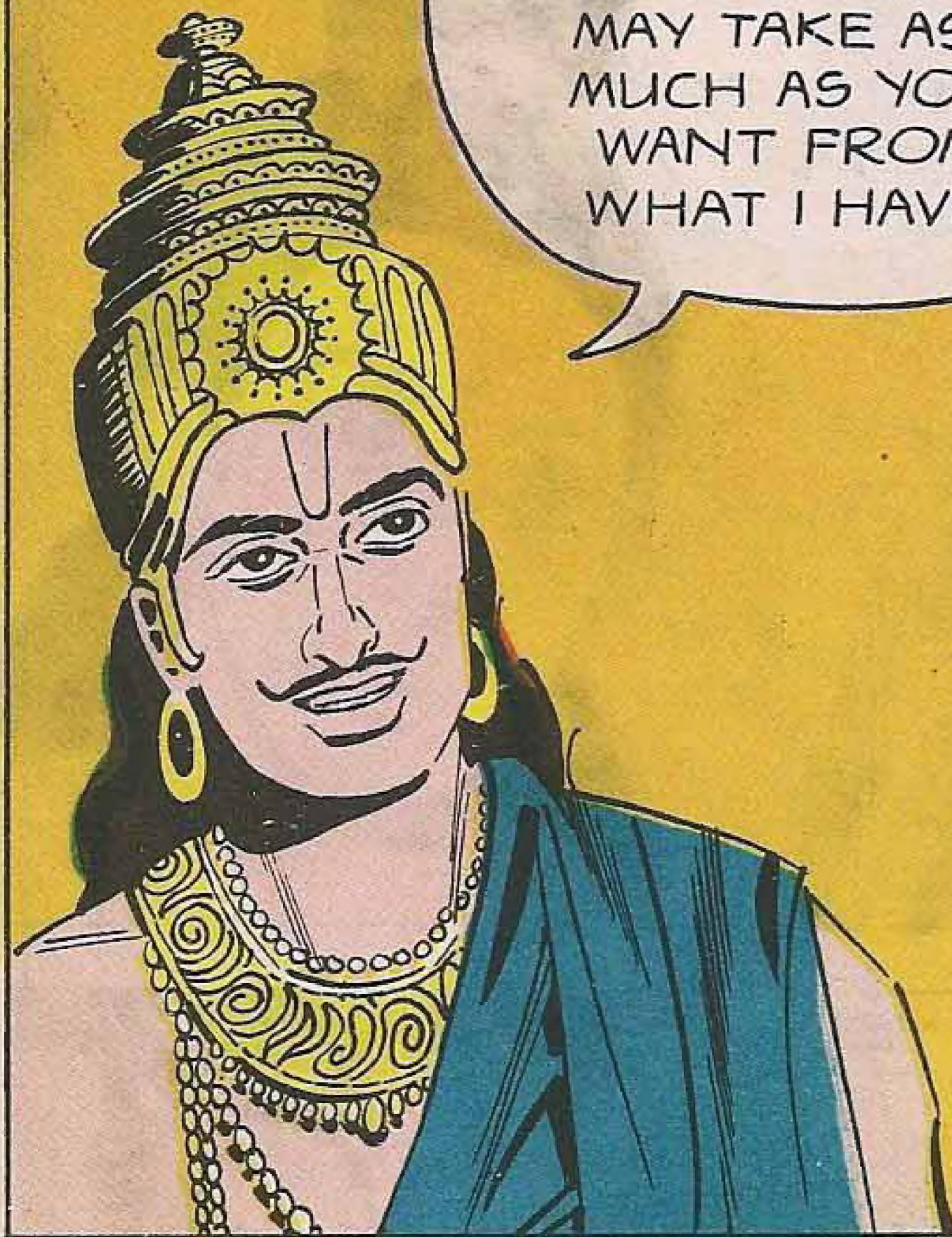
O GREAT ONE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I HAVE COME TO YOU FOR WEALTH. GIVE ME WHAT YOU CAN SPARE.



SRUTARVA WAS A GENEROUS KING. BUT -

I HAVE NO WEALTH TO SPARE. HOWEVER, YOU MAY TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT FROM WHAT I HAVE.



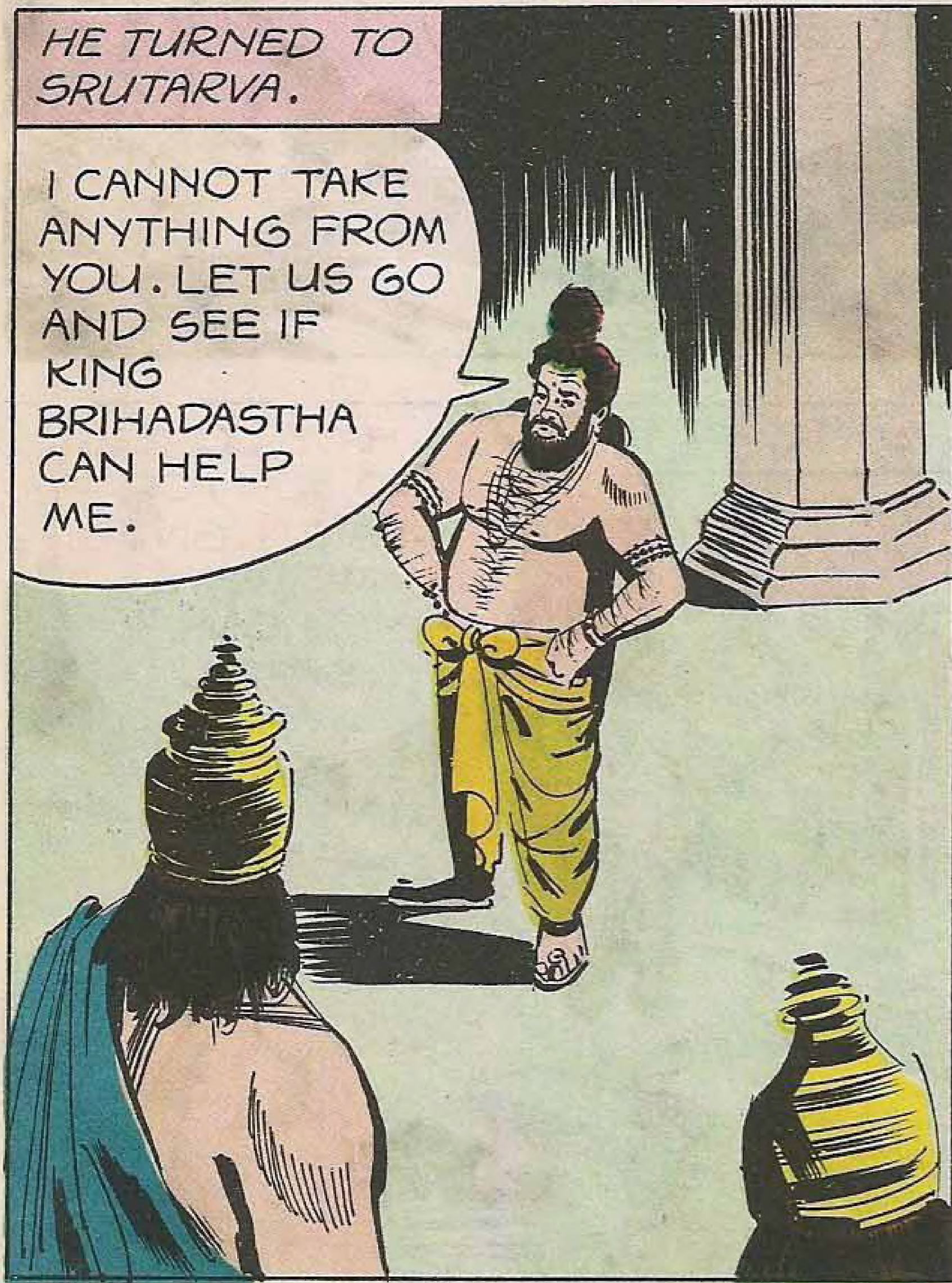
AGASTYA WAS WISE AND VIRTUOUS.

IF I TAKE ANYTHING FROM THIS KING I WILL BE DEPRIVING OTHERS.



HE TURNED TO SRUTARVA.

I CANNOT TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU. LET US GO AND SEE IF KING BRIHADASTHA CAN HELP ME.



BUT KING BRIHADASTHA TOO HAD NO WEALTH TO SPARE.

PERHAPS KING TRASADASYU WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP. LET US ALL GO TO HIM.





HOWEVER WHEN THEY  
APPROACHED HIM—

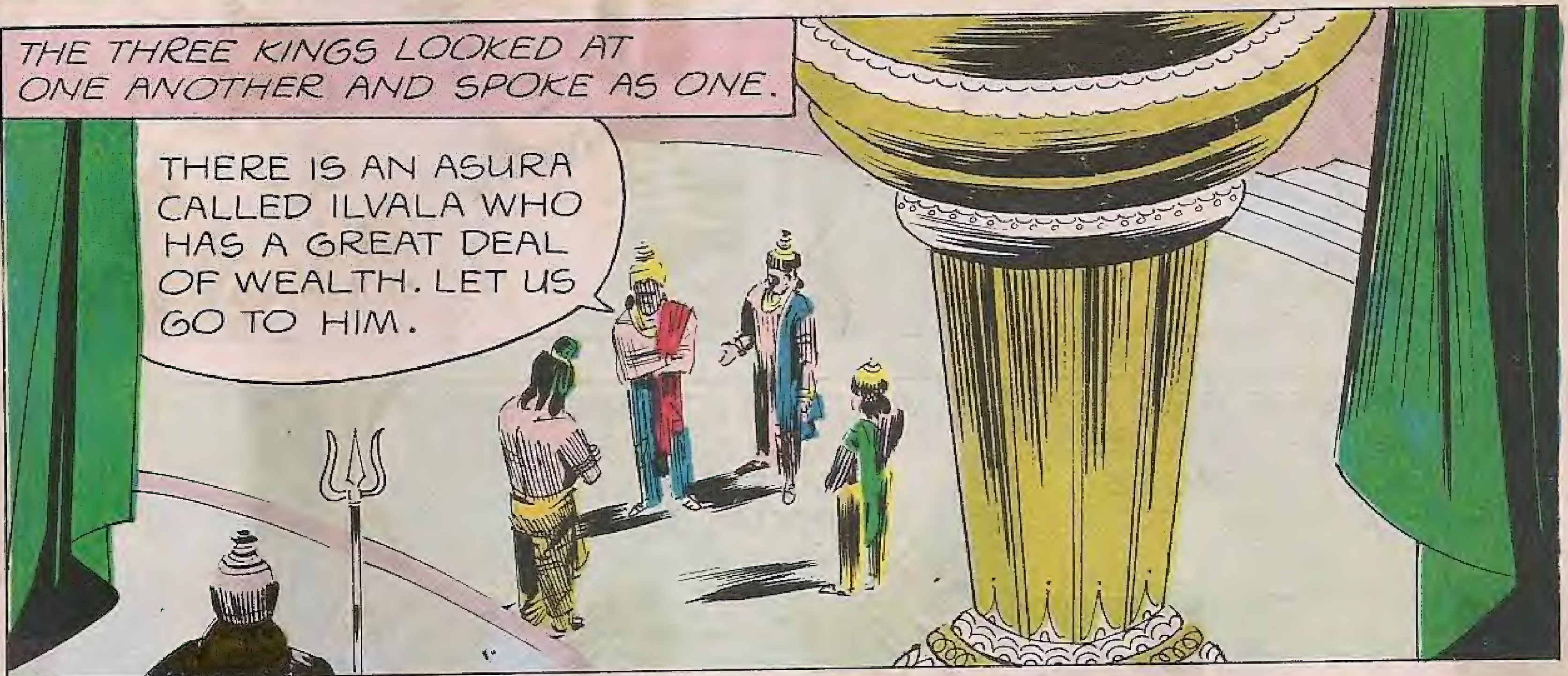
MY REVENUE AND  
EXPENDITURE ARE  
EQUAL. BUT  
I SHALL COME  
TO YOUR AID  
IF YOU NEED IT.

NO. I DO NOT WANT  
TO ACQUIRE WEALTH  
BY DEPRIVING  
OTHERS.



THE THREE KINGS LOOKED AT  
ONE ANOTHER AND SPOKE AS ONE.

THERE IS AN ASURA  
CALLED ILVALA WHO  
HAS A GREAT DEAL  
OF WEALTH. LET US  
GO TO HIM.



ILVALA WAS A WICKED ASURA. HE  
HAD A BROTHER CALLED VATAPI.  
THEY HATED THE BRAHMAN  
AND HAD VOWED TO KILL AS  
MANY AS THEY COULD.

VATAPI,  
I HEAR THAT  
THE GREAT  
BRAHMAN SAGE,  
AGASTYA, IS  
COMING HERE  
TODAY. GET  
READY TO  
CHANGE  
YOUR FORM.

I'LL BECOME  
A GOAT AS USUAL.  
YOU WILL KILL  
AND COOK ME...





...AND FEED YOU  
TO THE BRAHMAN.  
THEN WHEN  
I CALL YOU...

...I'LL TEAR  
HIS STOMACH  
AND COME  
RUSHING  
OUT AND...

...ANOTHER HATED  
BRAHMAN, THE  
GREATEST OF  
THEM ALL, WILL  
BE DESTROYED.



WHEN AGASTYA AND THE  
THREE KINGS REACHED  
ILVALA'S KINGDOM, HE  
WAS READY TO  
RECEIVE THEM.

WELCOME, O SAGE, AND  
YOU, O KINGS. COME,  
I HAVE COOKED A  
SPECIAL MEAL IN  
YOUR HONOUR.





THE THREE KINGS WERE ALARMED.

ALAS! I NEVER THOUGHT  
HE WOULD DARE  
DO IT TO THE  
GREAT SAGE.

WE MUST  
WARN  
AGASTYA.



WHEN THEY TOLD AGASTYA—

DO NOT  
WORRY.  
I WILL  
BE SAFE.



COME, O GREAT  
ONE. EAT  
WITH RELISH.



AGASTYA BEGAN EATING.

HM..M.M! THE  
TASTIEST MEAL  
I HAVE EVER  
EATEN!

AND THE  
LAST,  
YOU HATED  
BRAHMAN.





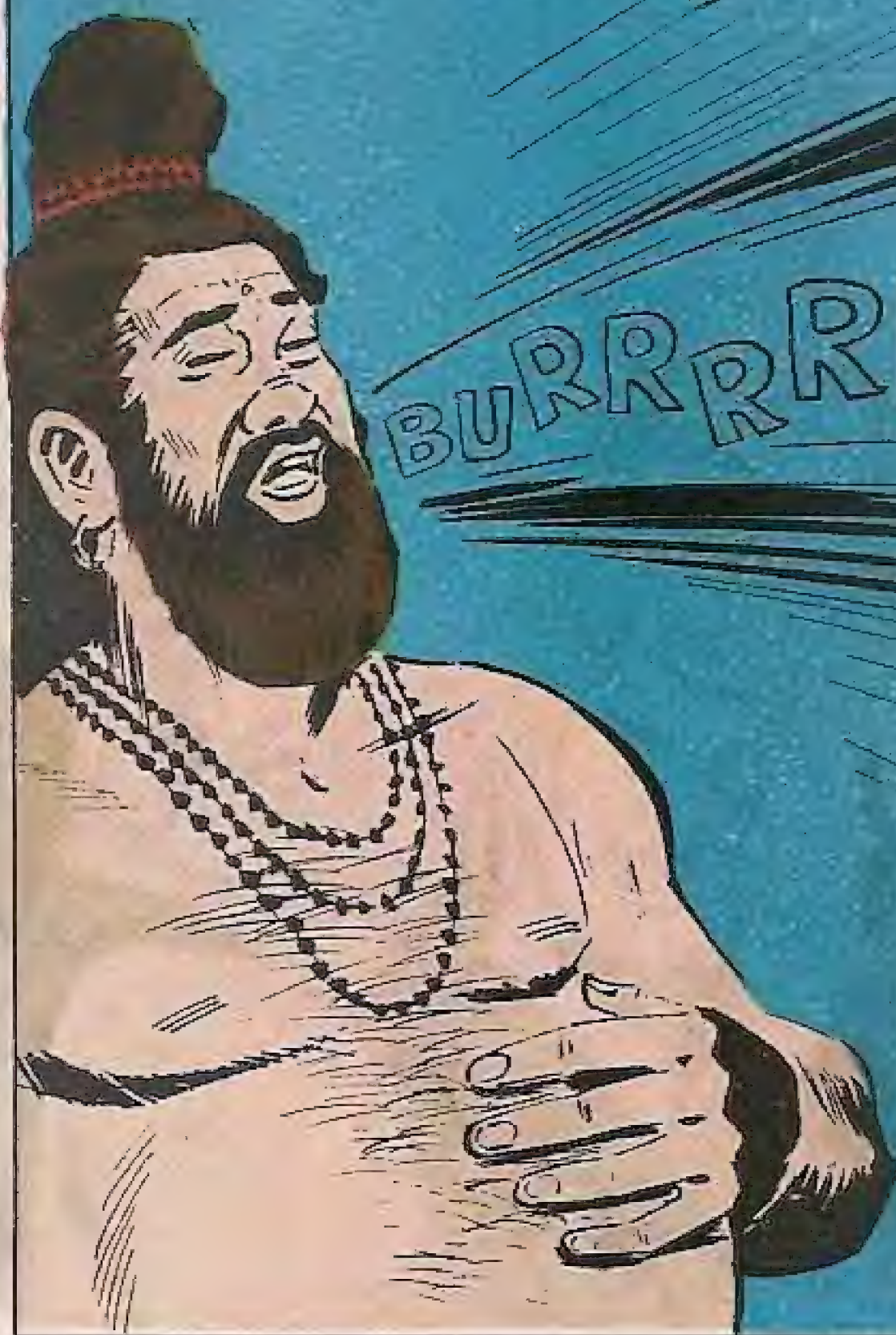
WHEN AGASTYA HAD EATEN THE LAST MORSEL -

VATAPI, O VATAPI,  
COME OUT.



BUT -

BURRRRP



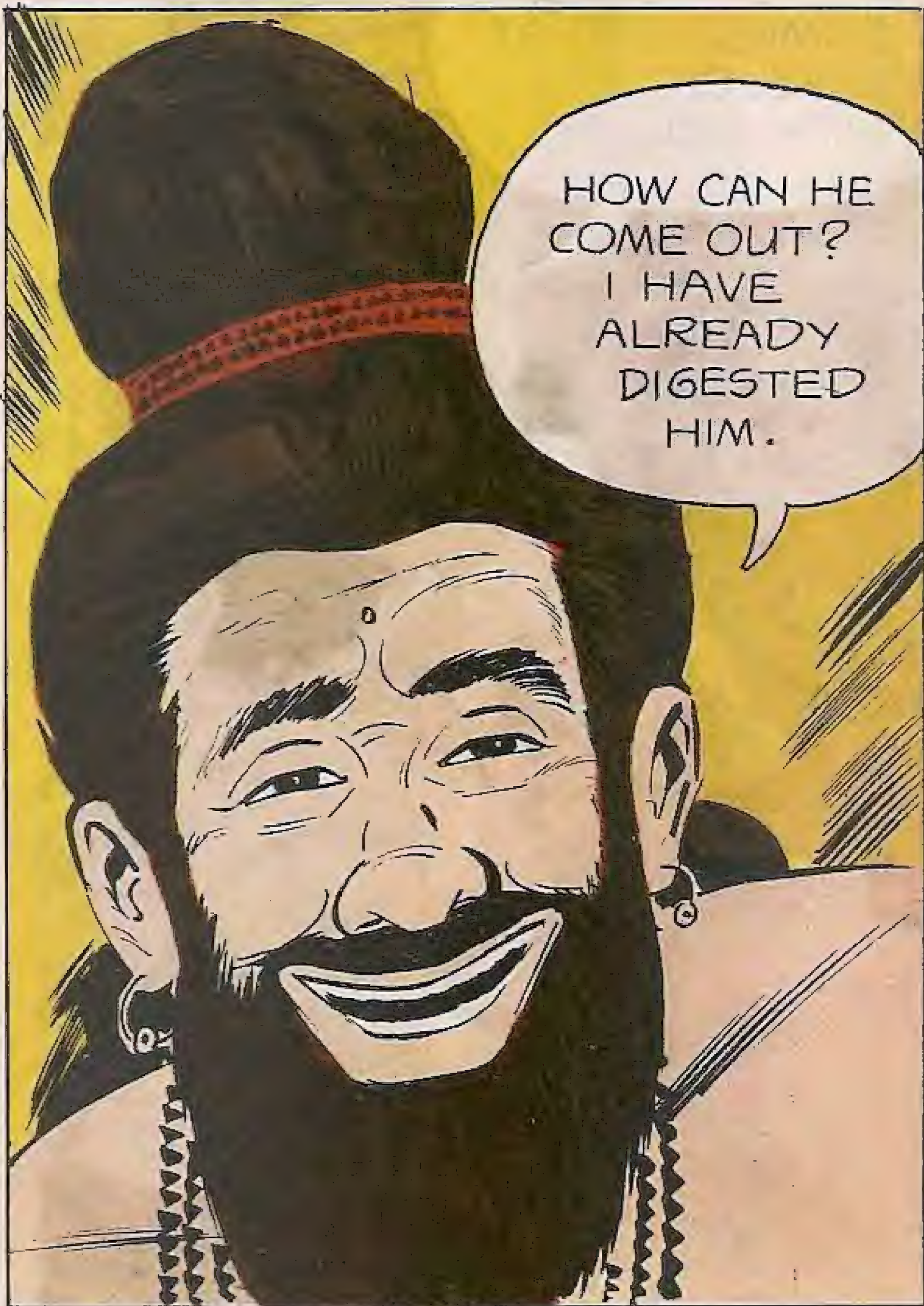
ILVALA BECAME FRANTIC.

VATAPI! O VATAPI! COME  
OUT. I, ILVALA, AM  
CALLING YOU.

HA! HA!  
HA! HA!



HOW CAN HE  
COME OUT?  
I HAVE  
ALREADY  
DIGESTED  
HIM.





ILVALA  
ACCEPTED  
HIS DEFEAT.

WHY HAVE  
YOU COME  
HERE?  
WHAT  
CAN I DO  
FOR YOU?

WE KNOW  
THAT  
YOU ARE  
WEALTHY.

THESE KINGS  
AND I NEED  
WEALTH. GIVE  
US WHAT YOU  
CAN WITHOUT  
DEPRIVING  
ANY OTHER.

ILVALA WAS QUIET  
FOR A MOMENT.

I SHALL GIVE  
THE KINGS  
10,000 COWS  
EACH AND AS  
MANY GOLD  
COINS, TO  
AGASTYA - 20,000  
COWS AND AS  
MANY GOLD COINS.  
I WILL ALSO GIVE  
HIM MY GOLDEN  
CHARIOT, AND  
HORSES.



THEN HE TURNED TO AGASTYA.

IF YOU CAN  
GUESS WHAT  
I INTEND TO  
GIVE YOU,  
THAT WILL  
BE YOURS.



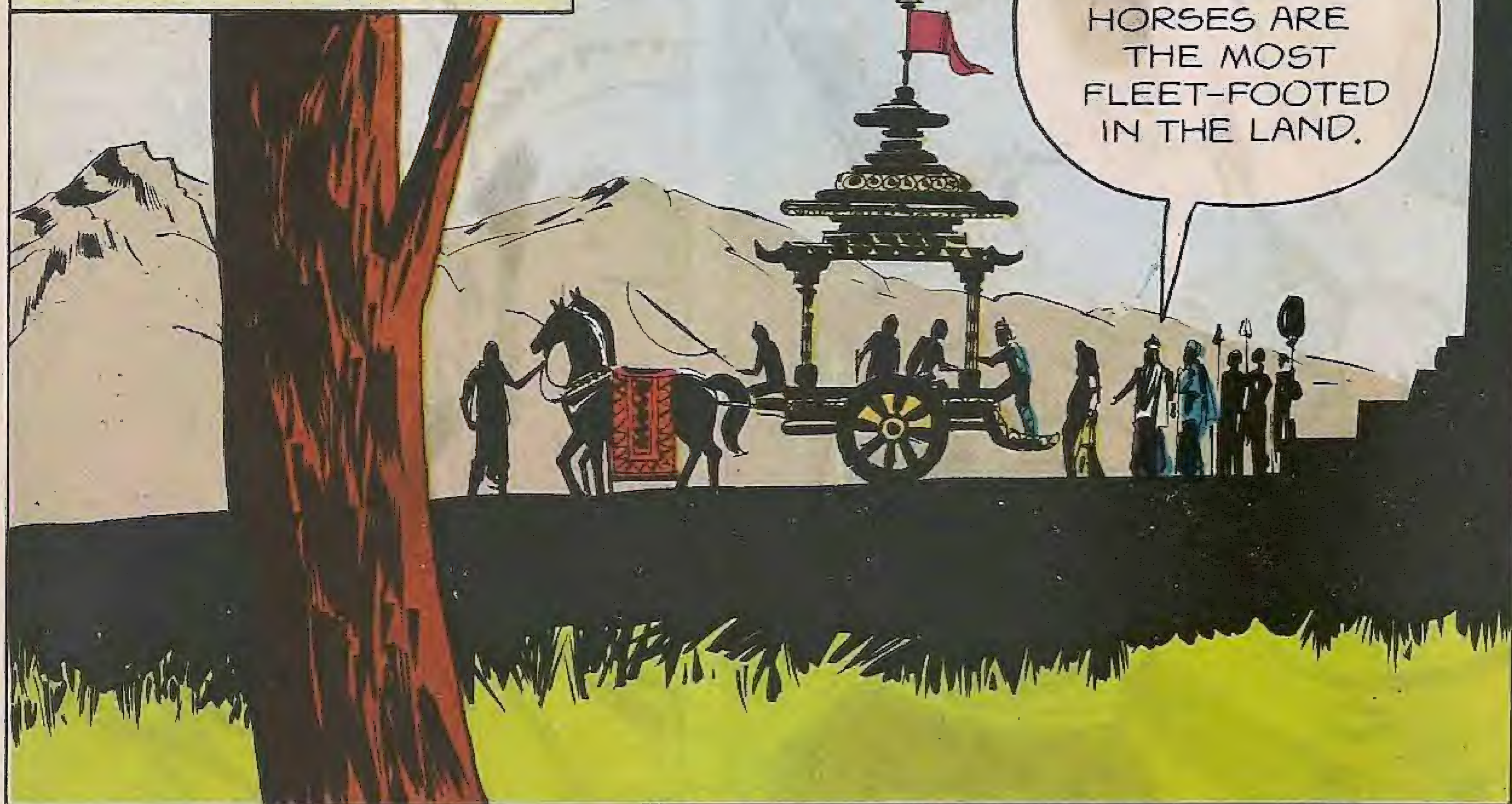
AGASTYA WITH HIS SPIRITUAL  
INSIGHT EASILY KNEW WHAT  
ILVALA HAD IN MIND.

YOU INTEND TO GIVE THE KINGS  
10,000 COWS EACH AND AS  
MANY GOLD COINS. AND TO ME,  
20,000 COWS, AS MANY COINS,  
AND YOUR GOLDEN CHARIOT  
AND HORSES.



AGASTYA AND THE KINGS  
MOUNTED THE CHARIOT.

I HAVE HEARD  
THAT ILVALA'S  
HORSES ARE  
THE MOST  
FLEET-FOOTED  
IN THE LAND.





THE KING WAS RIGHT. IN NO TIME, THEY REACHED AGASTYA'S HERMITAGE.

MAY WE RETURN TO  
OUR RESPECTIVE  
CITIES?

YES. OUR  
WORK IS  
OVER.  
YOU MAY  
GO.



WHEN THEY LEFT, AGASTYA  
WENT TO LOPAMUDRA.

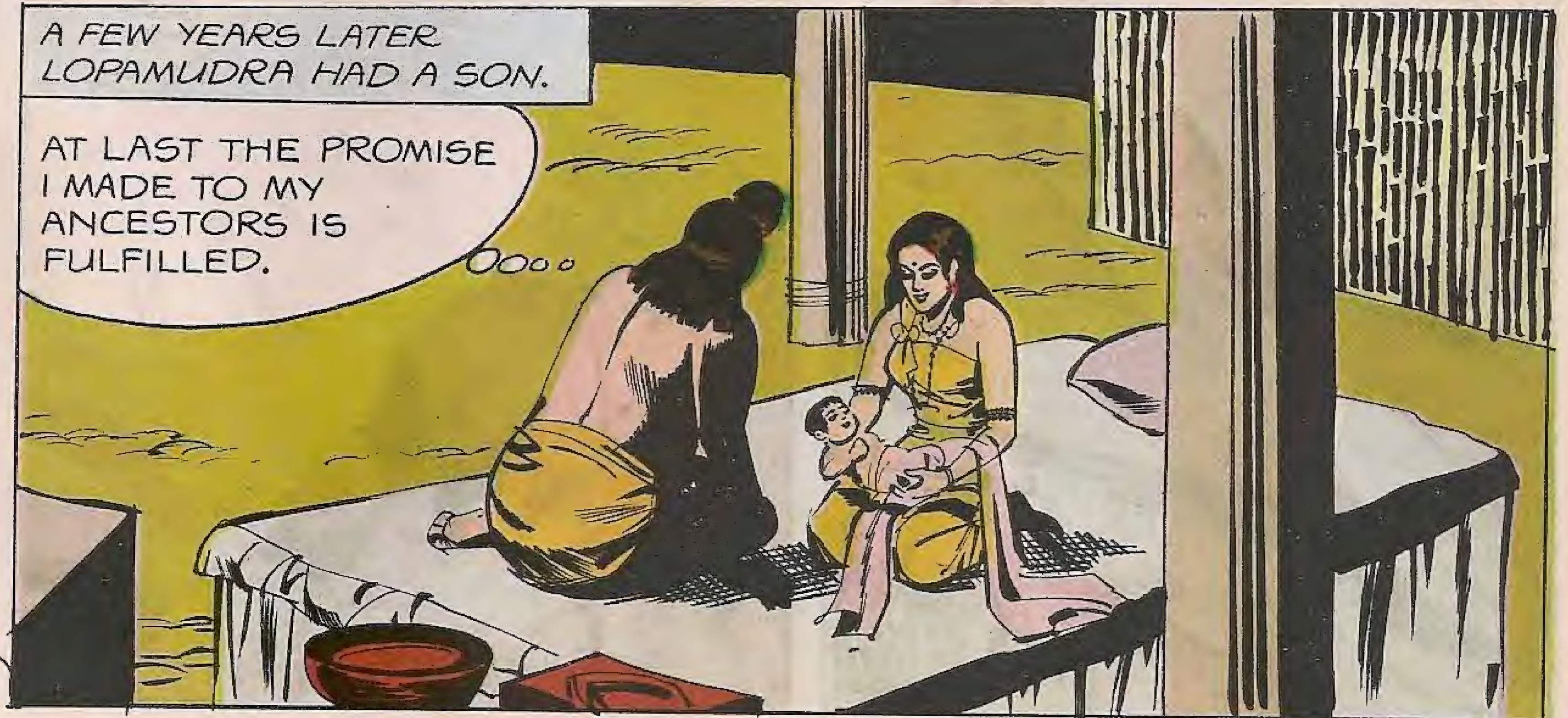
I HAVE BROUGHT WHAT  
YOU WANTED,  
LOPAMUDRA.  
WE WILL NOW  
LIVE AS YOU  
WISH.

I AM GRATEFUL  
TO YOU, MY  
LORD.



A FEW YEARS LATER  
LOPAMUDRA HAD A SON.

AT LAST THE PROMISE  
I MADE TO MY  
ANCESTORS IS  
FULFILLED.





ONE DAY, WHILE AGASTYA,  
LOPAMUDRA AND THEIR  
SON WERE LIVING AT  
GANGOTRI...



...THE VINDHYA MOUNTAIN  
ADDRESSED THE SUN.

O GLORIOUS SUN,  
YOU GO AROUND  
MOUNT MERU  
EVERY DAY AND  
HONOUR HIM.



I TOO WOULD LIKE TO  
BE HONoured IN THE  
SAME MANNER.

MY PATH HAS  
BEEN ASSIGNED TO  
ME SINCE  
CREATION. I DO NO  
SPECIAL HONOUR  
TO MERU.



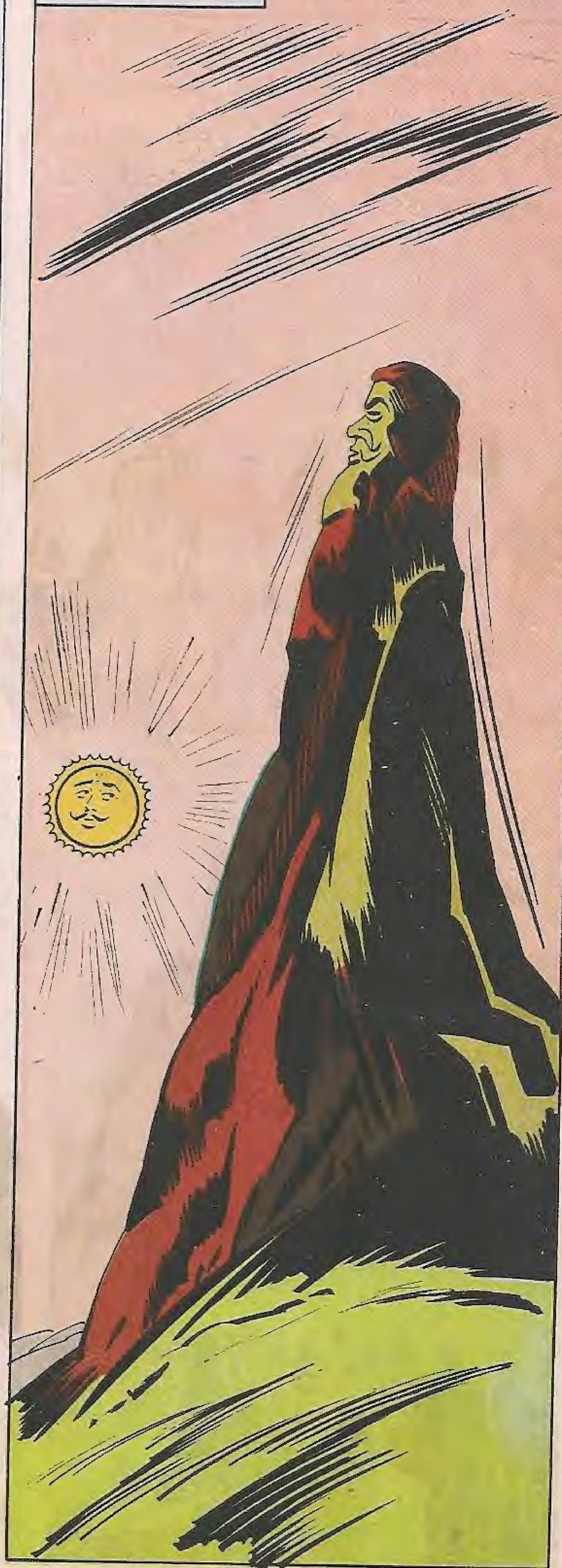


THE SUN'S WORDS ANGERED  
THE MOUNTAIN.

THEN I SHALL  
GROW TALLER  
AND BLOCK  
YOUR PATH.



SO THE VINDHYA GREW  
AND GREW.





WHEN THE DEVAS SAW THIS  
THEY WERE ALARMED.

THIS UNCHECKED  
GROWTH OF  
VINDHYA WILL  
SOON PLUNGE  
THE EARTH IN  
DARKNESS.

LET US TRY  
TO STOP  
HIM.



THEY WENT TO THE RAPIDLY  
GROWING MOUNTAIN.

PLEASE DESIST  
FROM THIS  
PURSUIT. YOU  
WILL UPSET  
THE BALANCE  
OF CREATION.

THAT IS  
NOT MY  
CONCERN.



THE GODS DID NOT KNOW  
WHAT TO DO. AT LAST—

LET US  
HASTEN TO  
AGASTYA. HE  
IS THE ONLY  
ONE WHO CAN  
HELP US.



THE DEVAS WENT TO THE HERMITAGE  
OF THE SAGE.

WELCOME TO MY HERMITAGE,  
O DEVAS. WHAT CAN  
I DO FOR YOU?

O GREAT ONE,  
WE NEED  
YOUR HELP.





WHEN THEY HAD TOLD HIM EVERYTHING, AGASTYA REASSURED THEM.

DO NOT WORRY. I WILL DO ALL I CAN, GO IN PEACE.



THE GODS LEFT. AGASTYA TURNED TO LOPAMUDRA.

COME, DEAR ONE. LET US GO AND SEE IF WE CAN STOP HIM.

IT IS OUR DUTY, MY LORD.



THEY WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN.

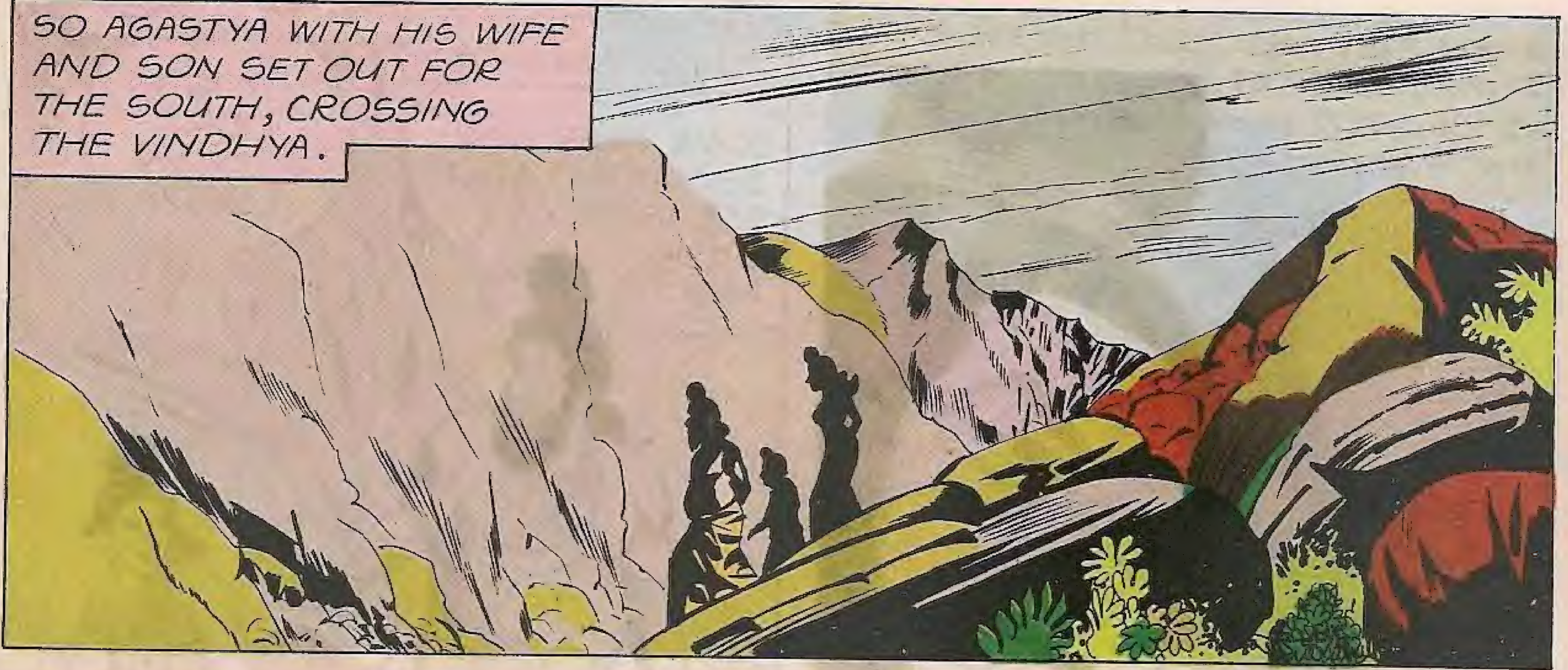
O GREAT MOUNTAIN, I WISH TO CROSS OVER YOU TO THE SOUTHERN COUNTRY. WAIT TILL I RETURN.

O GREAT SAGE, I WILL STOP INCREASING MY SIZE TILL YOU RETURN FROM THE SOUTH.



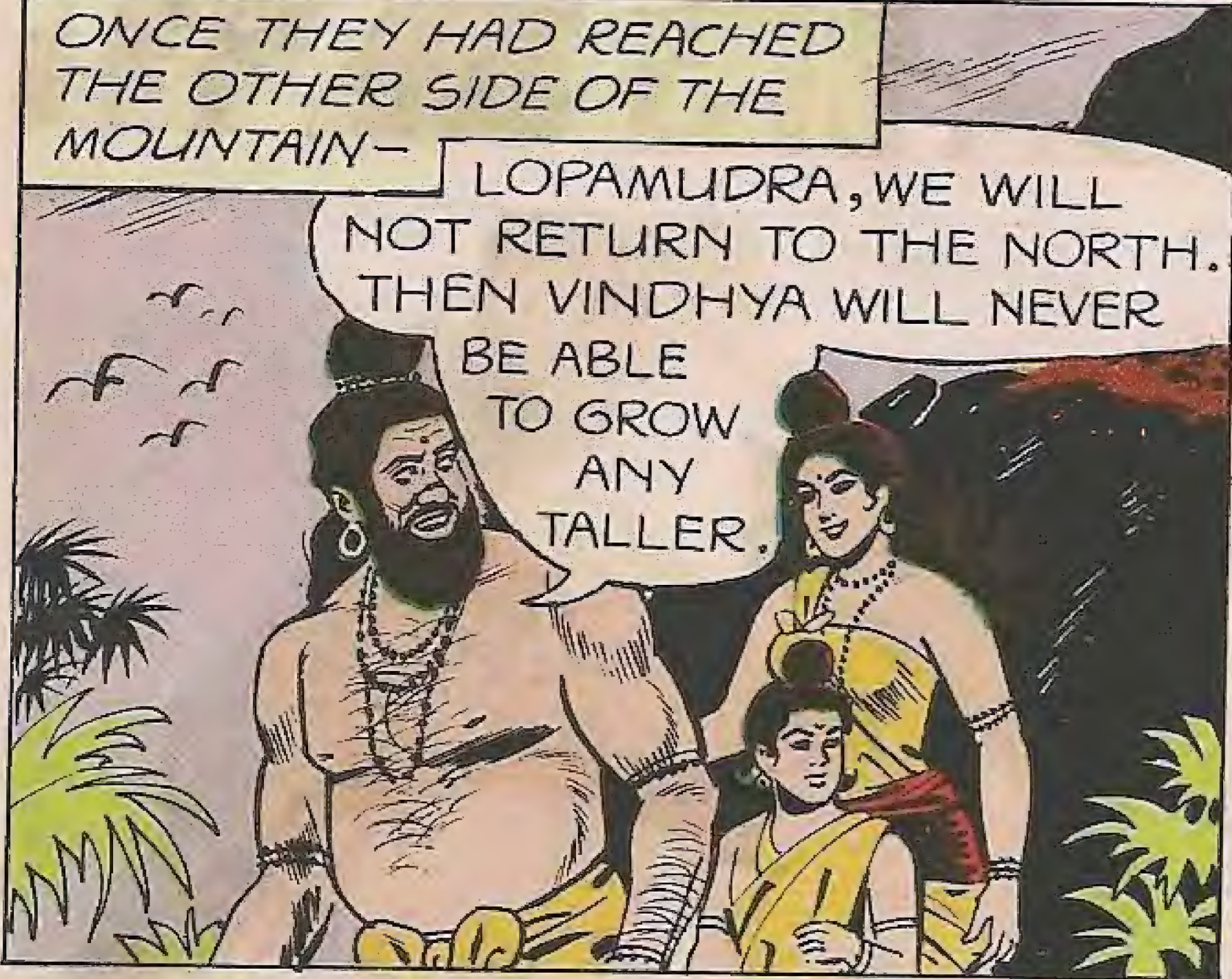


SO AGASTYA WITH HIS WIFE AND SON SET OUT FOR THE SOUTH, CROSSING THE VINDHYA.

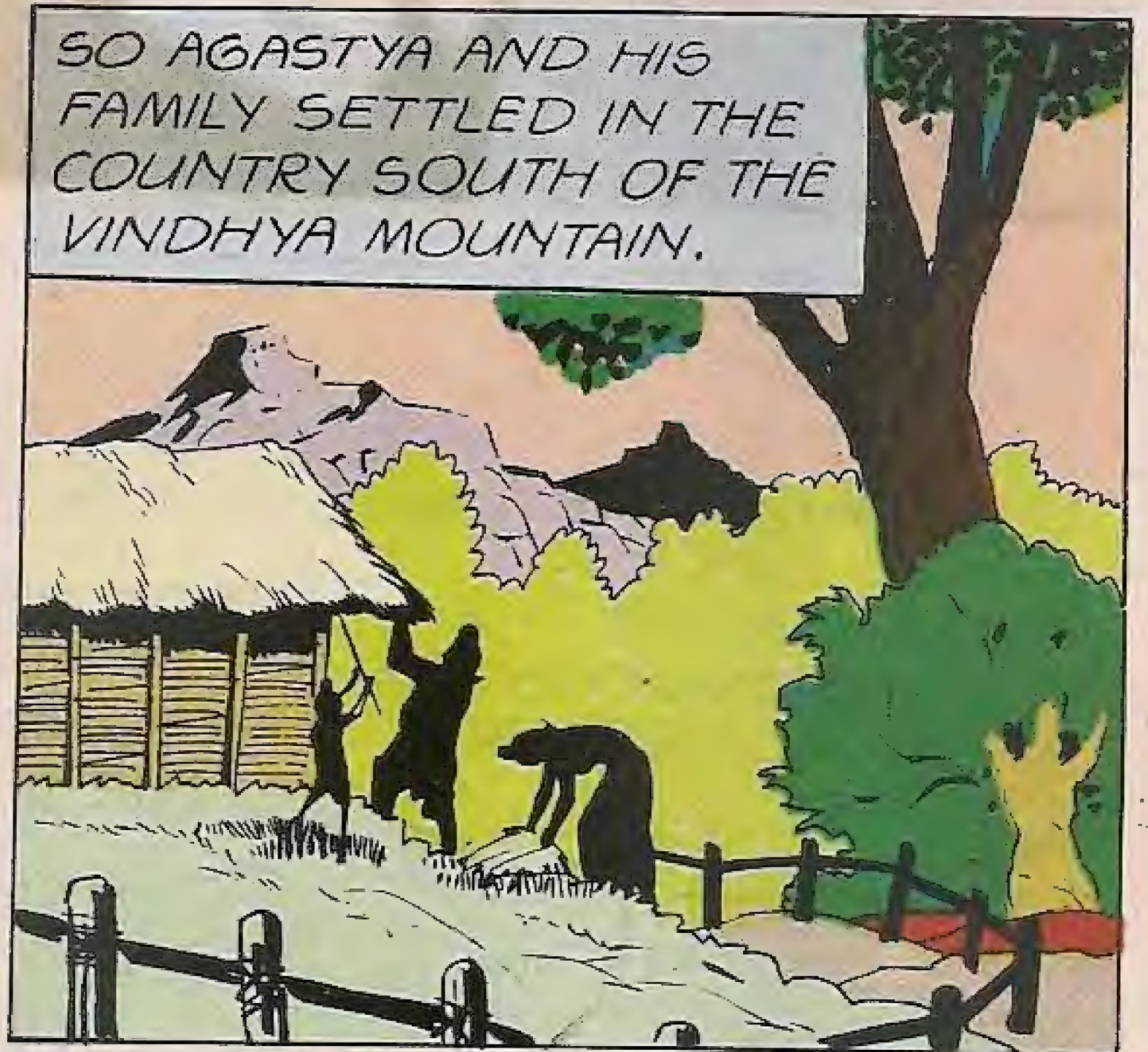


ONCE THEY HAD REACHED THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN—

LOPAMUDRA, WE WILL NOT RETURN TO THE NORTH. THEN VINDHYA WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GROW ANY TALLER.



SO AGASTYA AND HIS FAMILY SETTLED IN THE COUNTRY SOUTH OF THE VINDHYA MOUNTAIN.



THE KALKEYAS, A GROUP OF ASURAS, WERE BECOMING A NUISANCE TO THE THREE WORLDS. THE DEVAS WERE IN TROUBLE.

THE KALKEYAS ARE NOW ATTACKING OUR CITIES.

THEY DARE TO BECAUSE VRITRA LEADS THEM.

HE MUST BE DESTROYED.

LET US APPROACH BRAHMA FOR HELP.



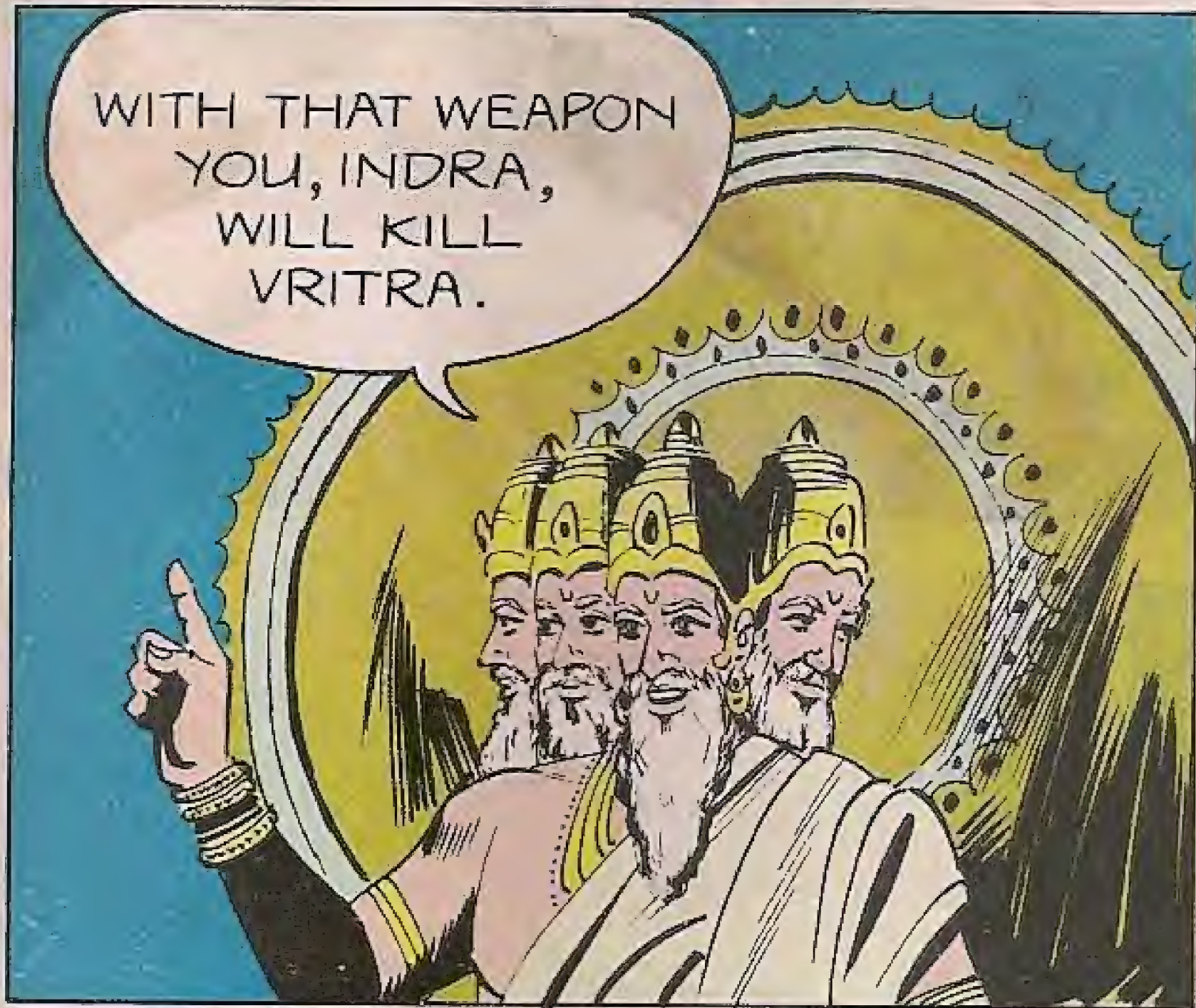


SO THE DEVAS LED BY INDRA, THEIR KING, WENT TO BRAHMA. BRAHMA KNEW WHY THEY HAD COME.

GO TO THE GREAT SAGE DADHICHI AND ASK HIM FOR HIS BONES. TAKE THE BONES TO TWASHTRI AND ASK HIM TO MAKE A WEAPON FOR YOU WITH THEM.

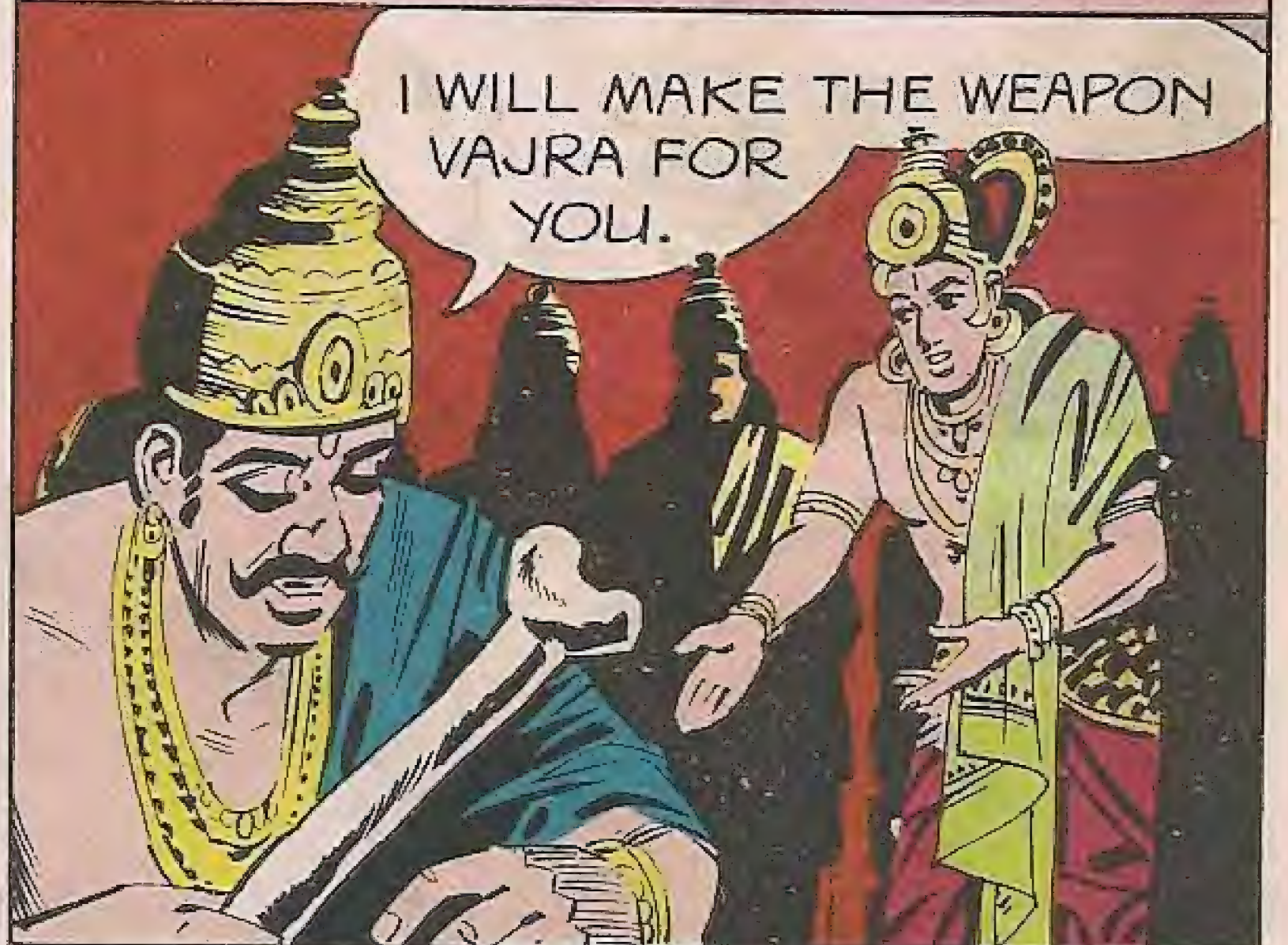


WITH THAT WEAPON YOU, INDRA, WILL KILL VRITRA.



THE DEVAS GOT THE BONES FROM DADHICHI AND WENT TO TWASHTRI.

I WILL MAKE THE WEAPON VAJRA FOR YOU.



WHEN HE FINISHED HE TURNED TO INDRA.

TAKE THIS AND DESTROY THE ENEMY.





CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, INDRA AND THE DEVAS ATTACKED VRITRA AND THE KALKEYAS.



BUT BEFORE THEY COULD ADVANCE, THE KALKEYAS RUSHED AT THEM WITH THEIR MACES.



NOT EXPECTING THIS THE DEVAS BROKE THEIR RANKS...



...AND FLED IN PANIC.





INDRA LOST  
HEART.

WHAT SHALL  
I DO? IN  
SPITE OF  
BRAHMA'S  
PROMISE THE  
DEVAS HAVE  
DESERTED ME.



HE TURNED TO VISHNU FOR HELP.

DO NOT FEAR.  
I SHALL GIVE  
YOU A PORTION  
OF MY MIGHT.



WHEN VRITRA LEARNT OF  
THE HELP OBTAINED BY  
INDRA, HE ROARED  
IN ANGER.

COME, O LEADER  
OF THE DEVAS.  
TASTE OF MY  
MIGHT TOO!

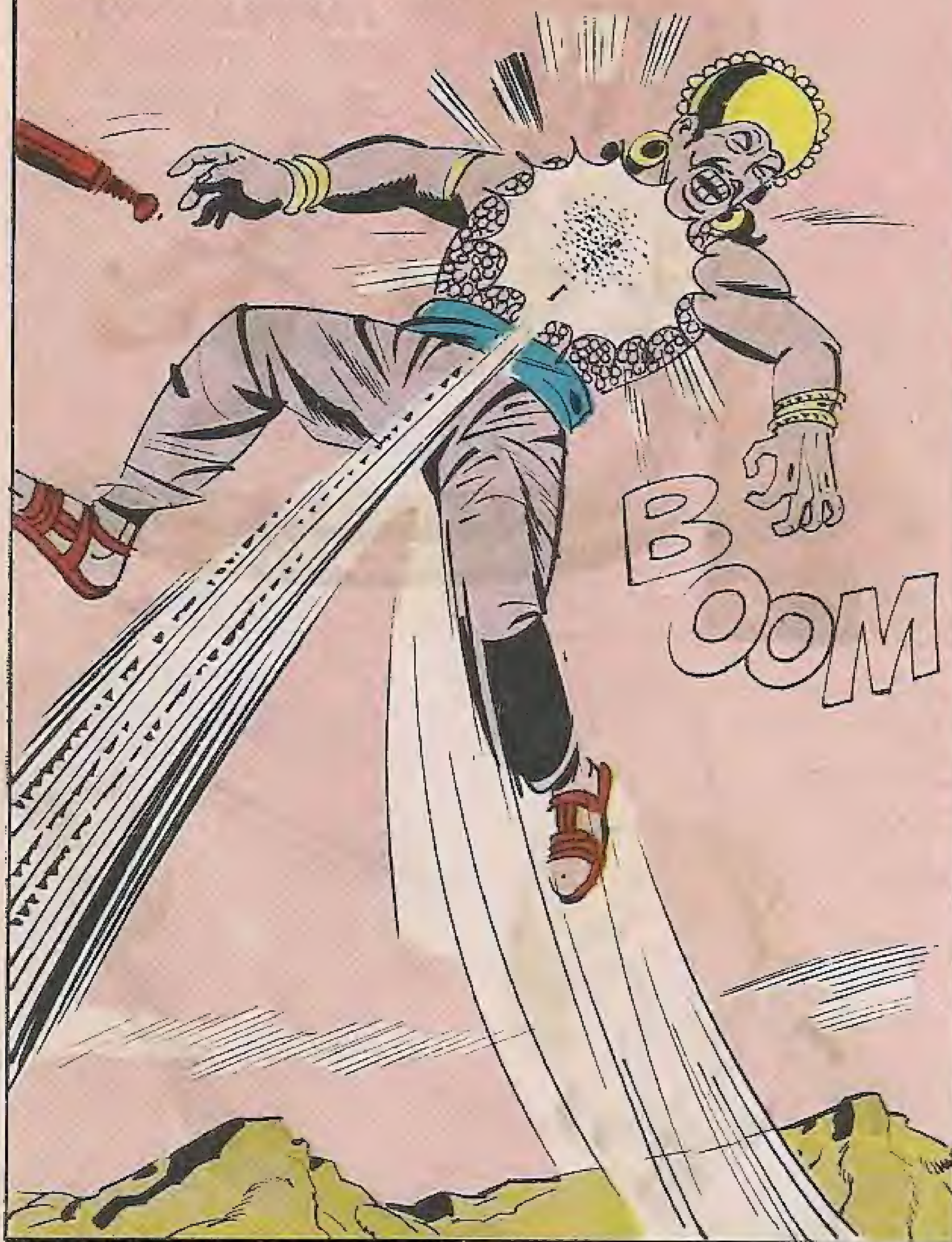


INDRA WITH HIS NEWLY  
ACQUIRED STRENGTH  
HURLED THE VAJRA  
AT HIM.





THE VAJRA FOUND ITS MARK.



THE GREAT ASURA FELL DEAD.



WHEN THE DEVAS HEARD THE NEWS —

VRITRA IS DEAD.  
NOW WE CAN  
VANQUISH THE  
KALKEYAS.





THEY CHARGED AT THE HAPLESS ASURAS.

WE ARE DOOMED.  
THERE IS NO  
ONE TO LEAD US.



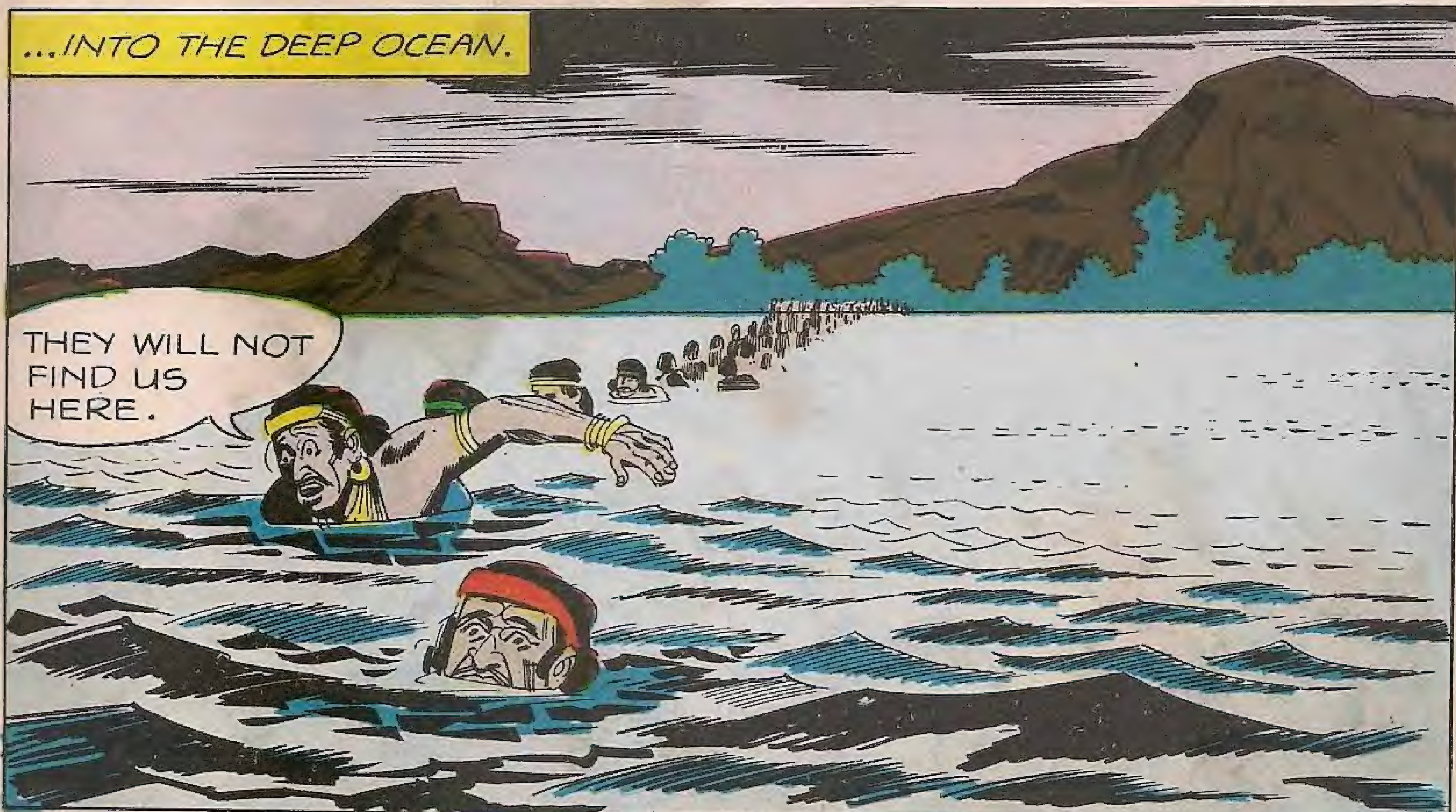
PANIC-  
STRICKEN, THE  
ASURAS FLED,  
AWAY FROM  
THE FIELD...

RUN! RUN!



...INTO THE DEEP OCEAN.

THEY WILL NOT  
FIND US  
HERE.





RID OF THE KALKEYAS THE  
DEVAS REJOICED.

WE MAY NOW LIVE  
IN PEACE.



MEANWHILE THE  
KALKEYAS ASSEMBLED  
IN THEIR  
UNDERWATER  
HOME AND  
PLANNED  
REVENGE.

WE MUST KILL ALL GOOD  
MEN ON EARTH. THEIR  
DEATH WILL DESTROY  
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.

WE MUST DO  
OUR WORK BY  
NIGHT. WE  
WILL NOT BE  
FOUND OUT.



AND THE  
KALKEYAS BEGAN  
THEIR WORK OF  
DESTRUCTION.

E.E.E.AH!





WARRIORS AND HEROES WENT IN SEARCH OF THE MURDERERS, BUT COULD NOT FIND THEM.

WHO COULD  
THEY BE?  
WHERE DO  
THEY  
VANISH?

WHERE COULD  
THEY BE HIDING?  
WE HAVE  
SEARCHED  
EVERYWHERE.

INDRA AND THE DEVAS,  
WERE PERTURBED.

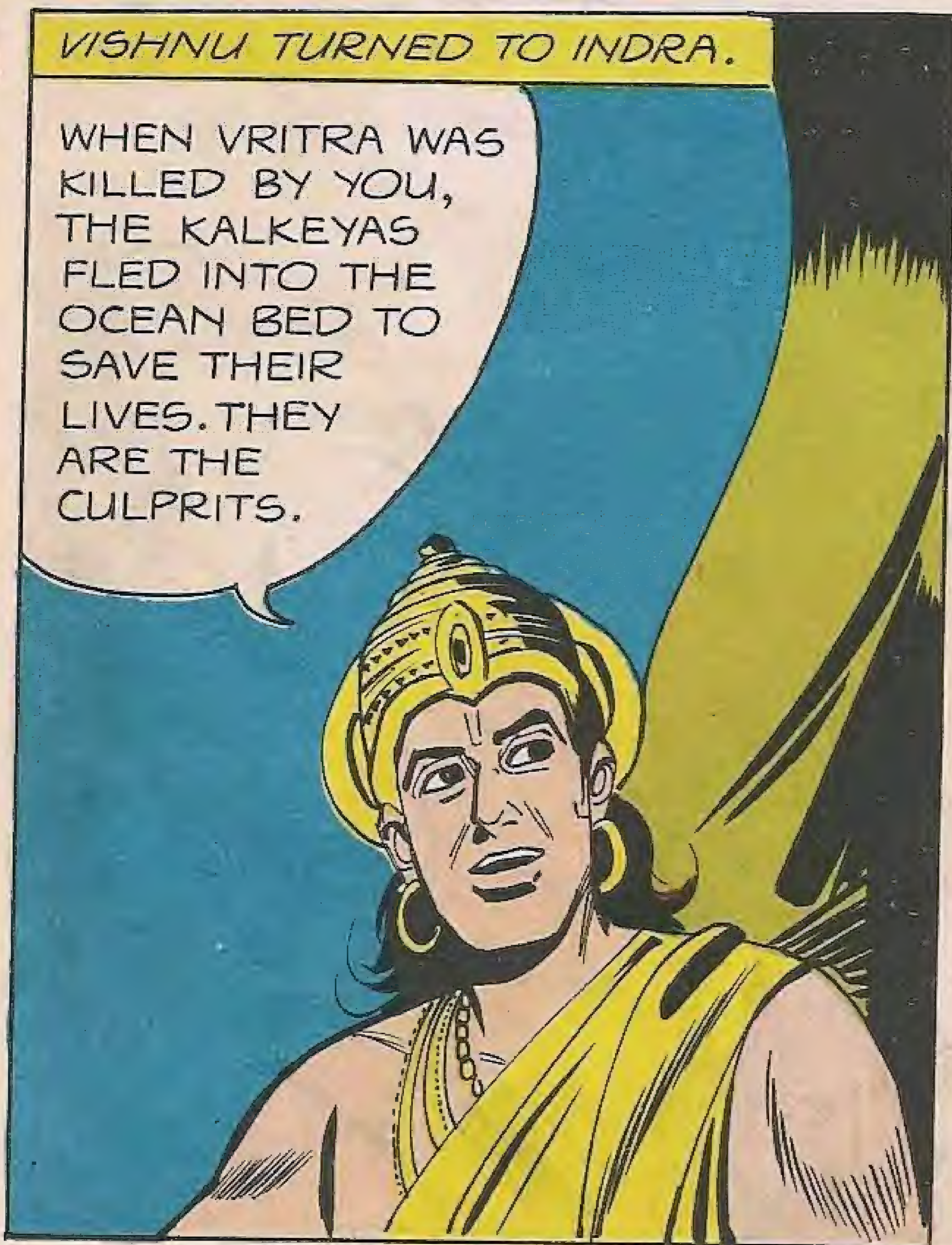
LET US GO  
TO VISHNU  
FOR HELP.

THEY WENT TO HIM.

LORD, YOU HAVE ALWAYS  
COME TO OUR AID  
WHEN WE  
NEEDED  
YOU.

WHAT IS  
IT NOW?









YOU MUST FIND  
OUT SOME MEANS  
TO DRY UP  
THE OCEAN.

BUT WHO CAN  
ACCOMPLISH  
SUCH A TASK?



WHO ELSE,  
BUT AGASTYA!

THE HOPEFUL DEVAS WENT  
TO AGASTYA.

GREAT ONE, YOU  
CONSUMED THE  
EVIL VATAPI. YOU  
PREVENTED VINDHYA  
FROM PLUNGING THE  
WORLD IN ETERNAL  
DARKNESS.

SO WE HAVE  
COME TO YOU  
FOR HELP.

WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
ME TO DO?





WE WANT YOU TO DRINK  
THE OCEAN. THEN WE  
SHALL BE ABLE TO  
KILL OUR ENEMIES,  
THE EVIL KALKEYAS.

I SHALL  
DO WHAT YOU  
DESIRE AS IT  
WILL BENEFIT  
THE WORLD.

WHEN THEY REACHED  
THE OCEAN—

ARRAY YOURSELVES  
FOR WAR WHILE  
I DRINK THE OCEAN.

AND AGASTYA  
BEGAN  
DRINKING  
THE OCEAN.



AS THE OCEAN BED  
BECAME VISIBLE, THE  
KALKEYAS TAKEN BY  
SURPRISE RAN HELTER  
SKELTER.

WH...  
WHAT!

WHERE IS ALL  
THE WATER  
GOING?

RUN!



THE DEVAS WERE  
WELL PREPARED.

ATTACK! DO NOT  
SPARE A SINGLE  
ONE OF THEM.

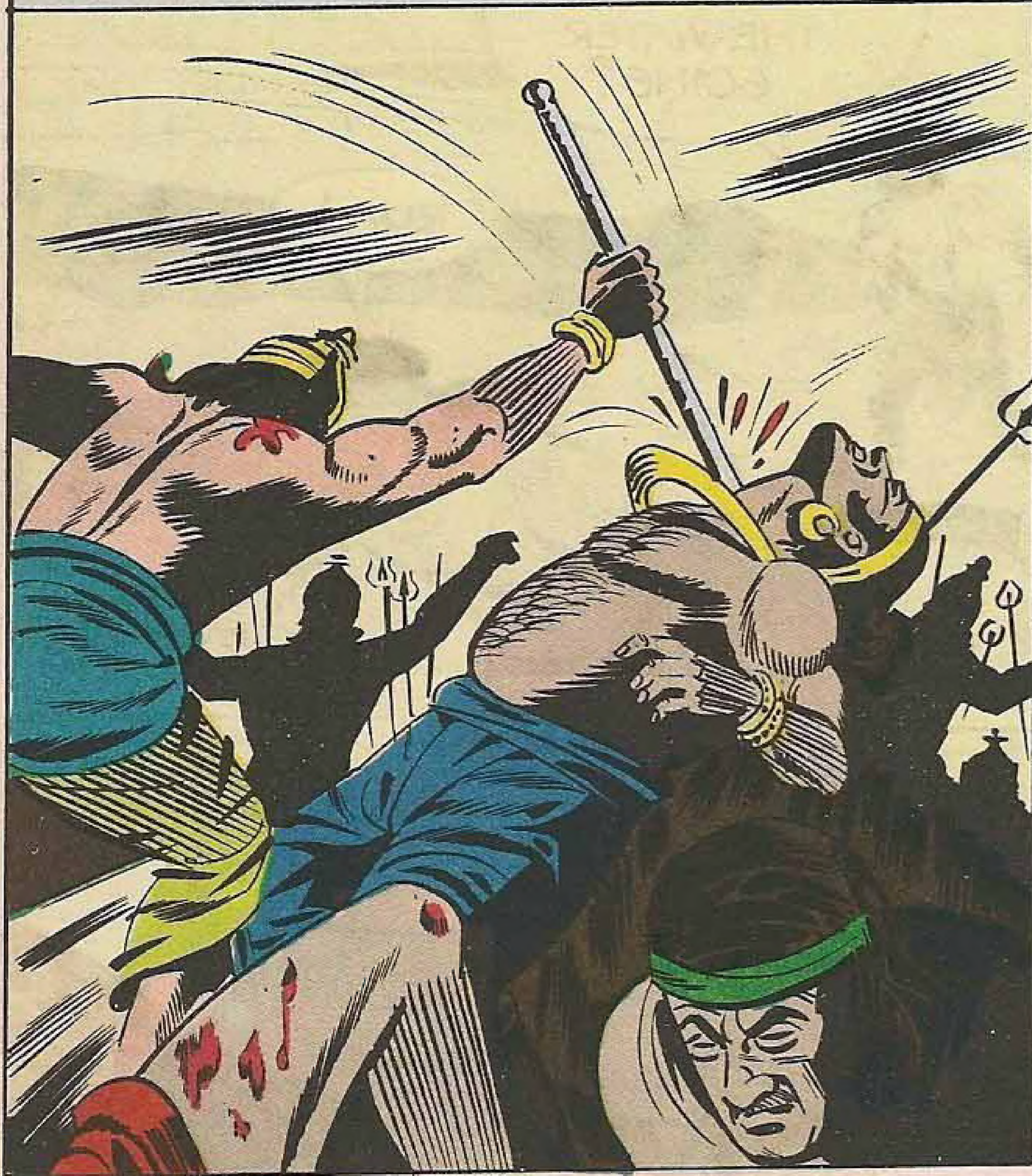


A TERRIBLE  
BATTLE ENSUED.

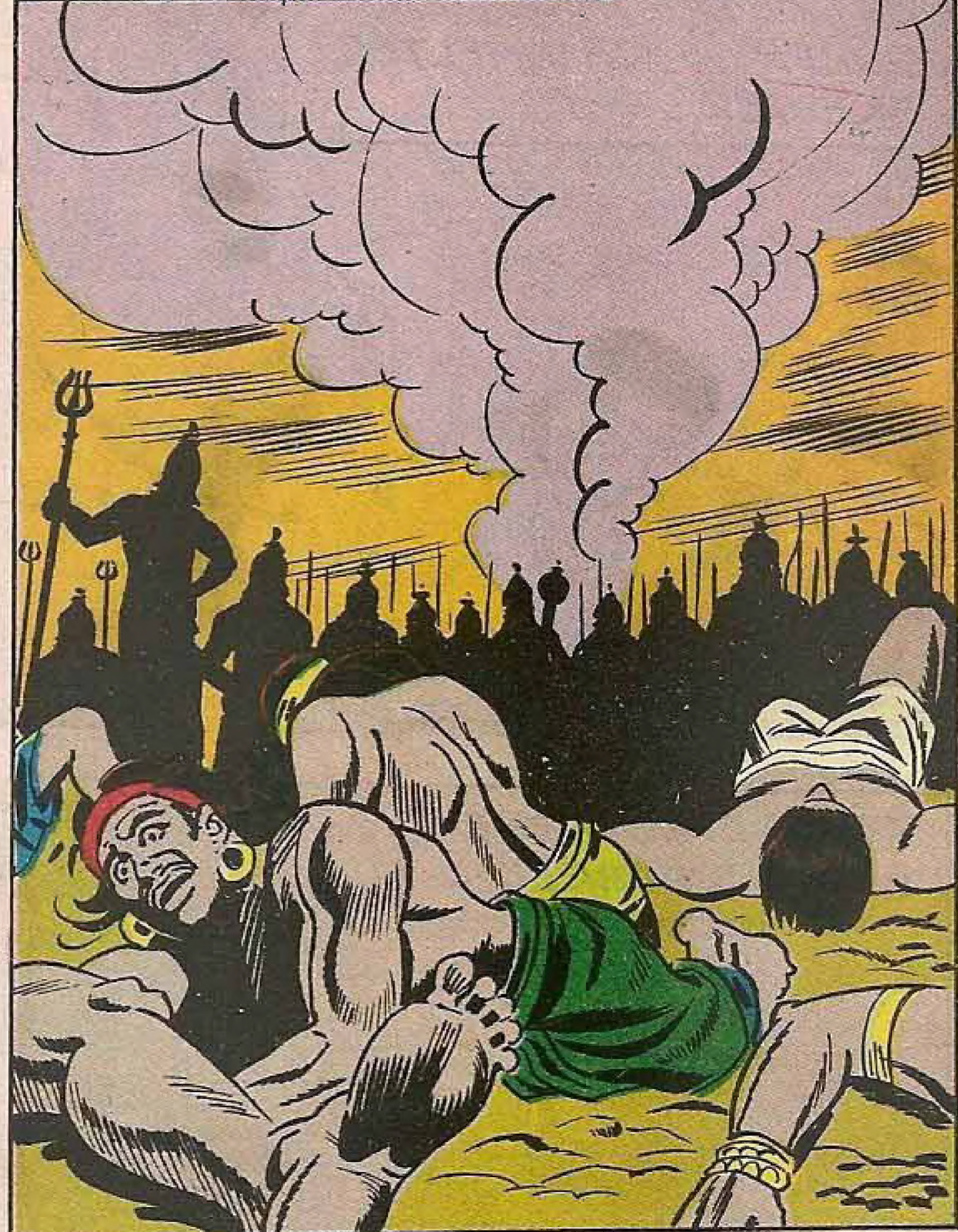




BUT THE KALKEYAS WERE UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE ONSLAUGHT...

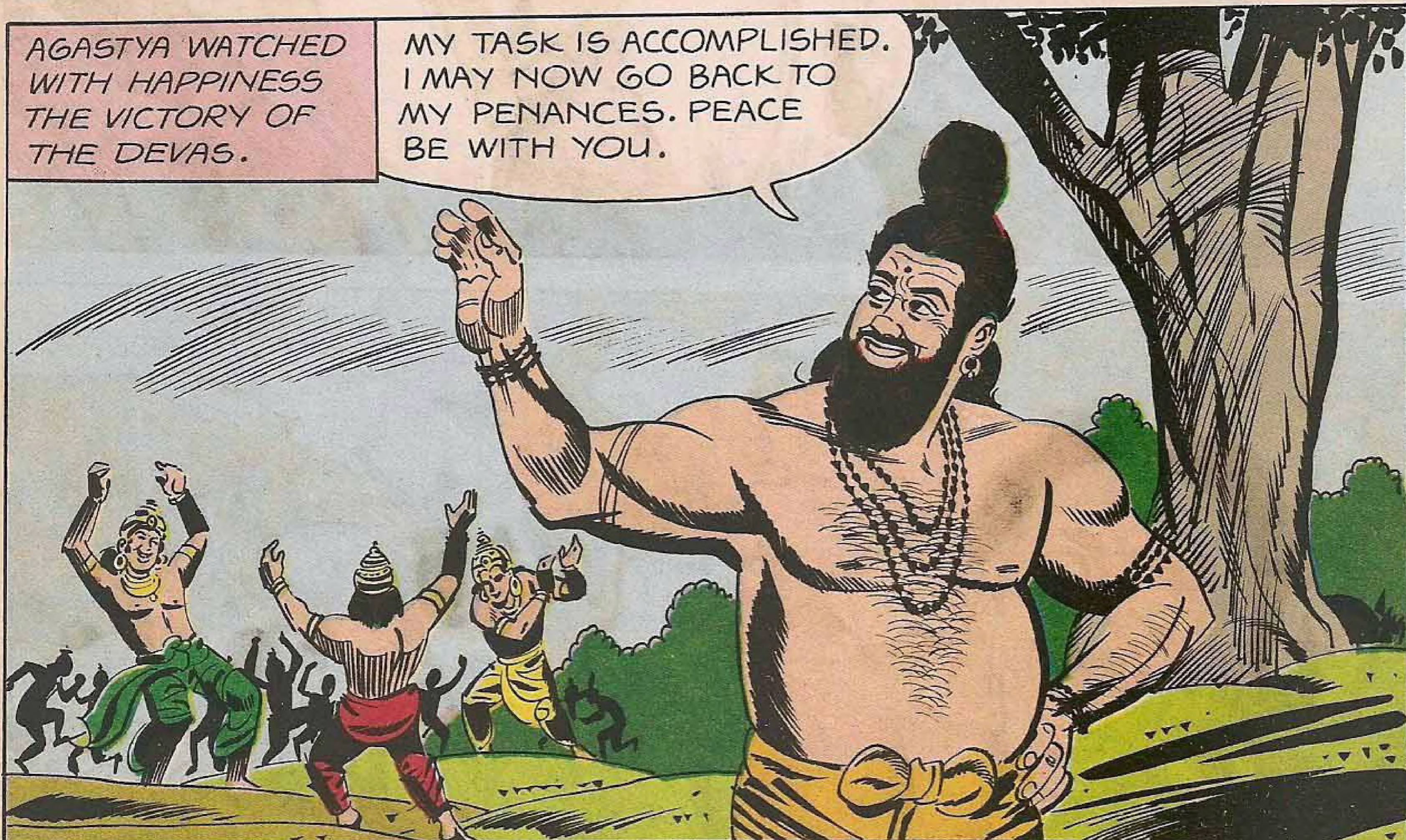


...AND WERE SOON VANQUISHED.



AGASTYA WATCHED WITH HAPPINESS THE VICTORY OF THE DEVAS.

MY TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED. I MAY NOW GO BACK TO MY PENANCES. PEACE BE WITH YOU.



THUS ONCE MORE THE JUST AND WISE SON OF MITRA AND VARUNA SUPPRESSED EVIL AND PROTECTED THE GOOD.



Have you read these recently published  
**AMAR CHITRA KATHA** titles?

RANJIT SINGH

RAM SHASTRI

RANI OF JHANSI

ULOOPI

BAJI RAO

CHAND BIBI

KABIR

SHER SHAH

DRONA

SURYA

URVASHI

ADI SHANKARA

GHATOTKACHA

TULSIDAS

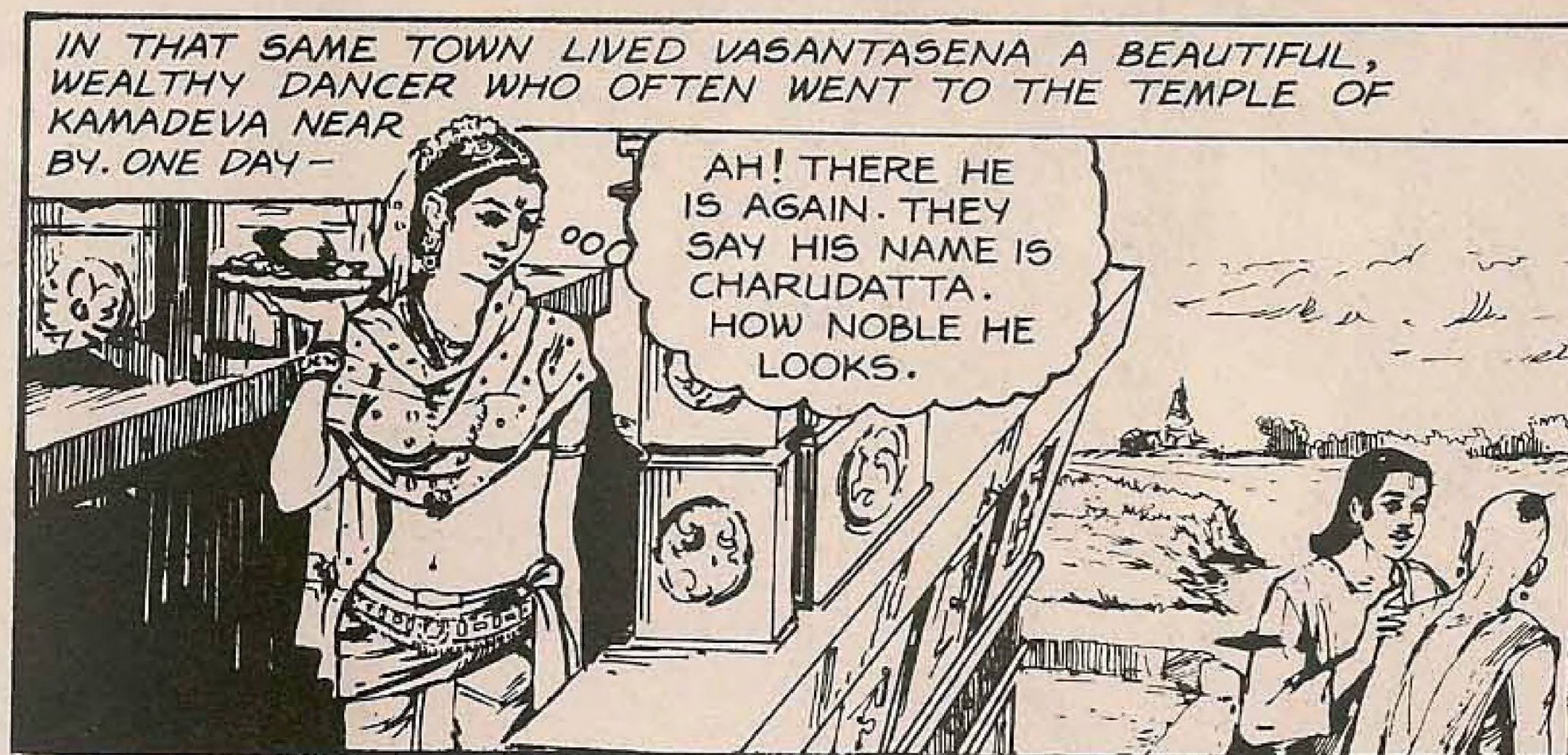
DURGADAS

SUKANYA

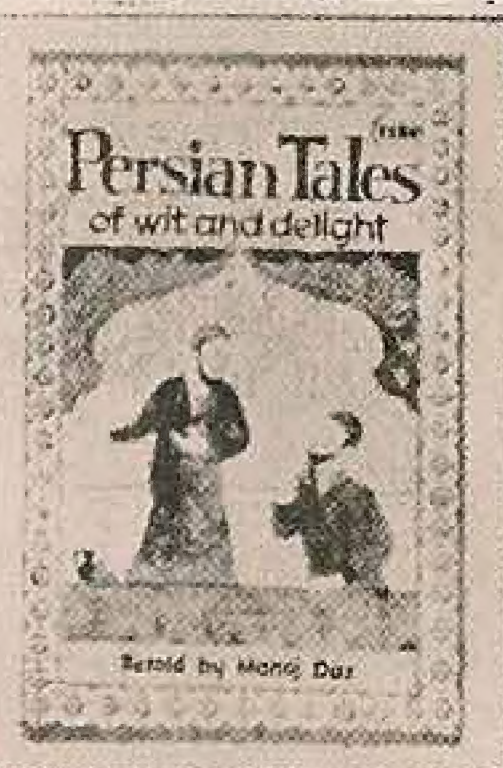
ANIRUDDHA

TUKARAM

## OUR NEXT TITLE: **VASANTASENA**



PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, HINDI, MARATHI, GUJARATI, AND KANNADA. AVAILABLE AT ALL BOOKSTALLS OR **INDIA BOOK HOUSE** Secunderabad-3 (For V.P.P. orders only)



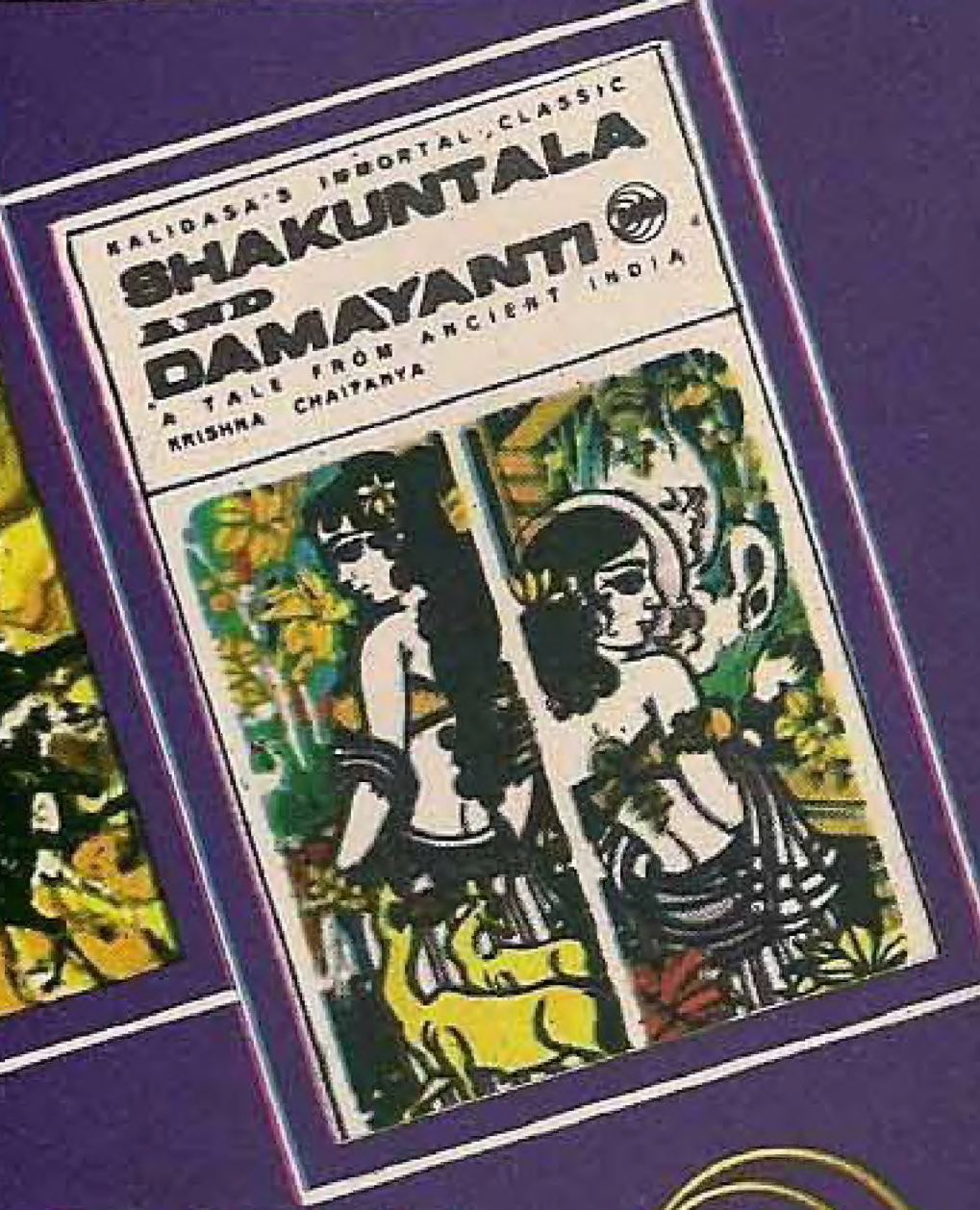
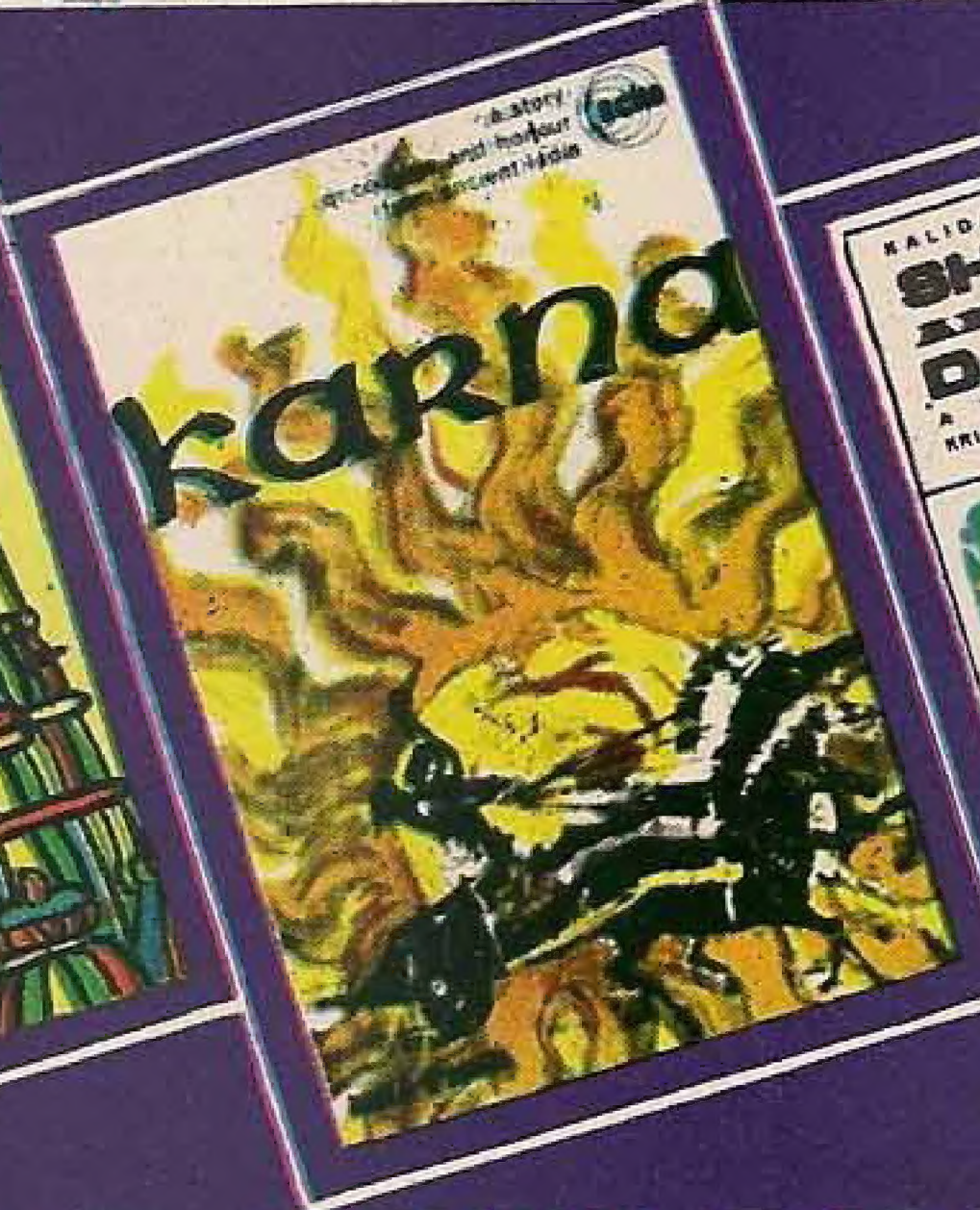
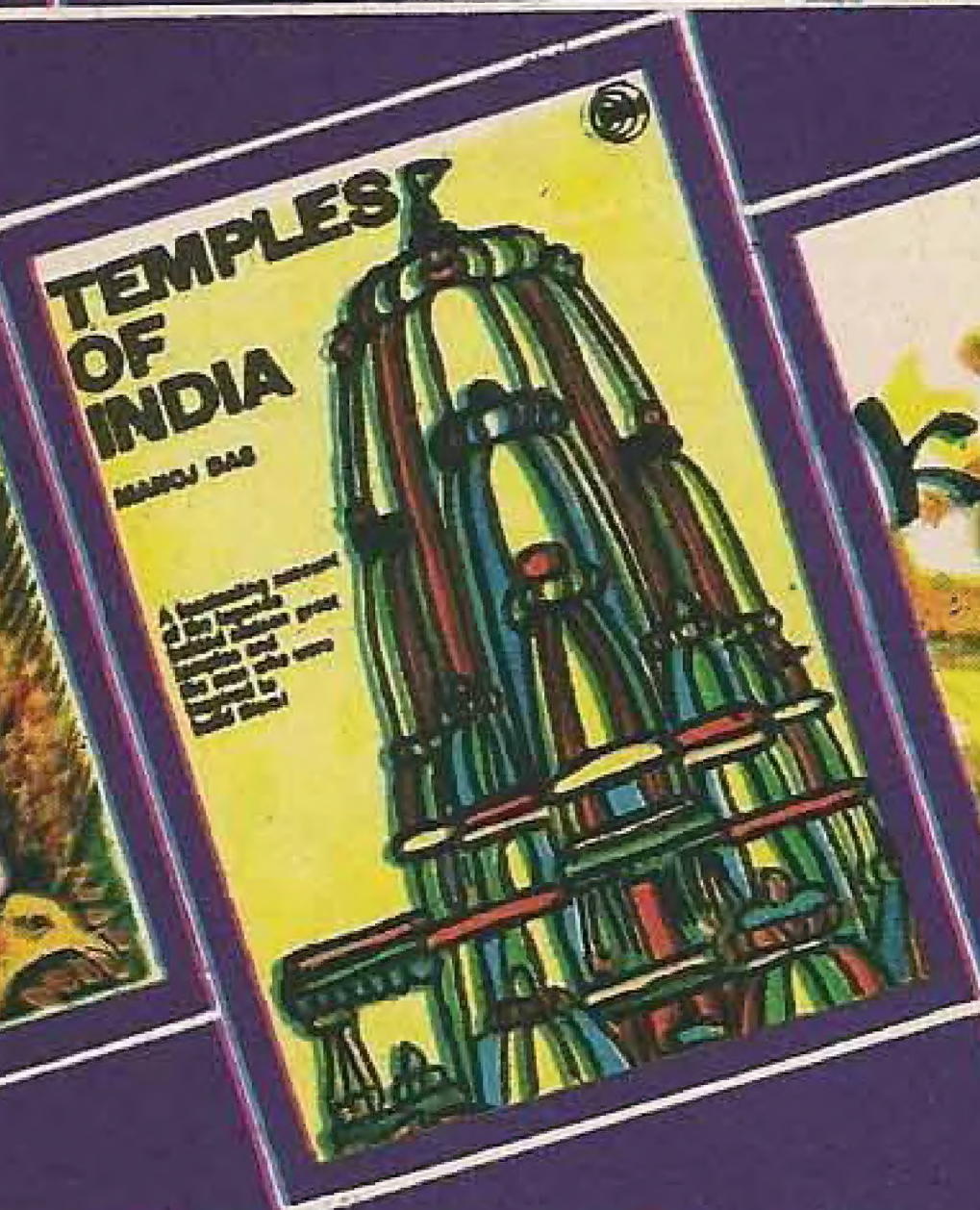
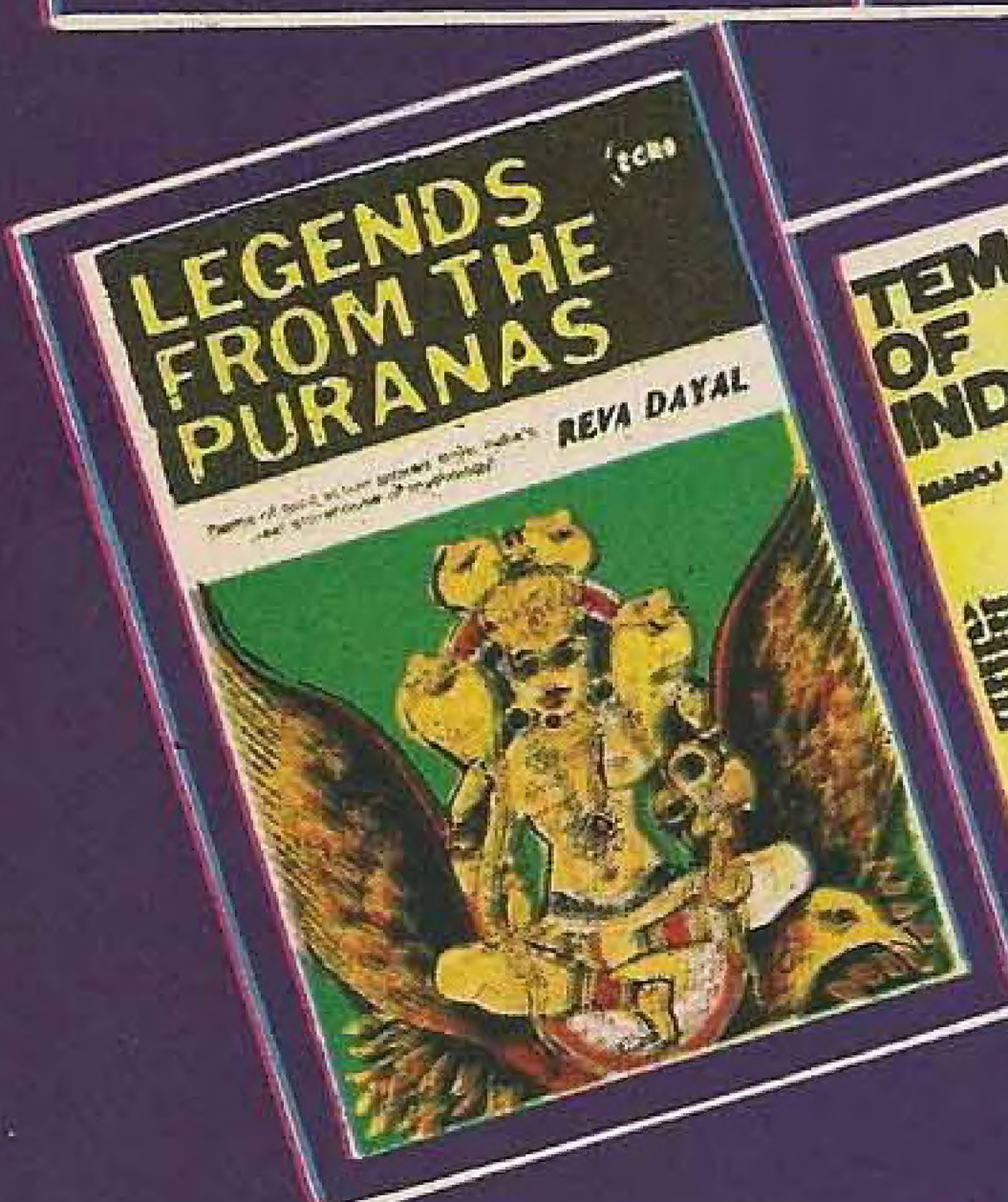
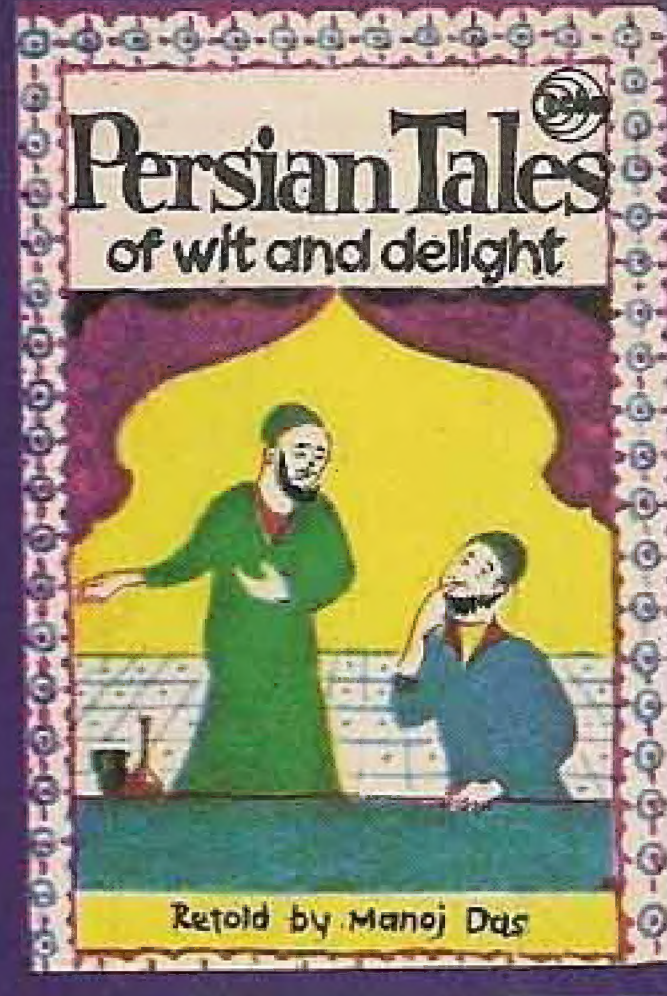
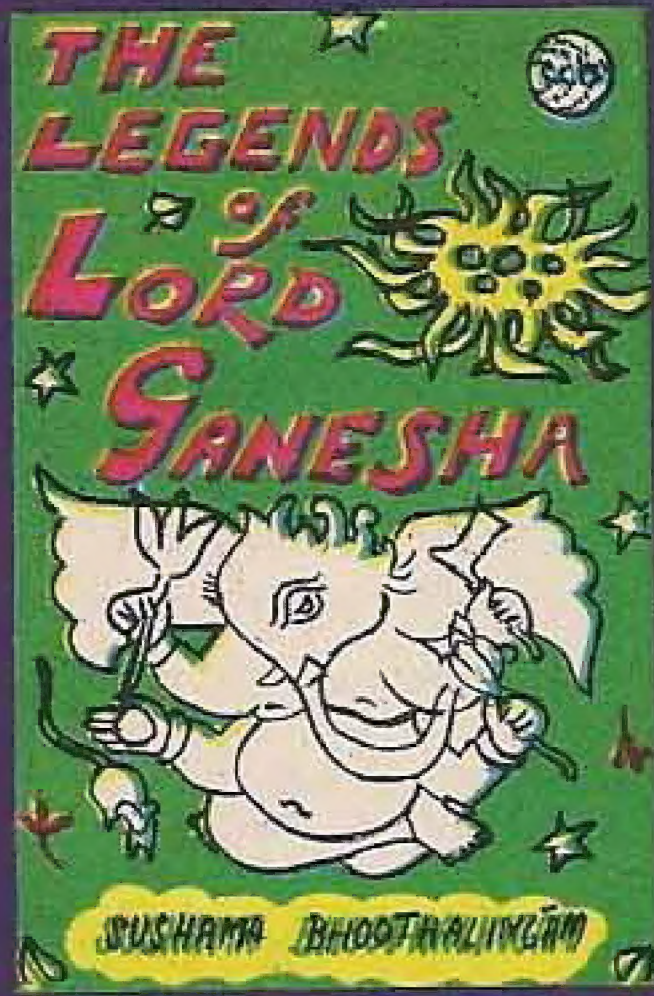
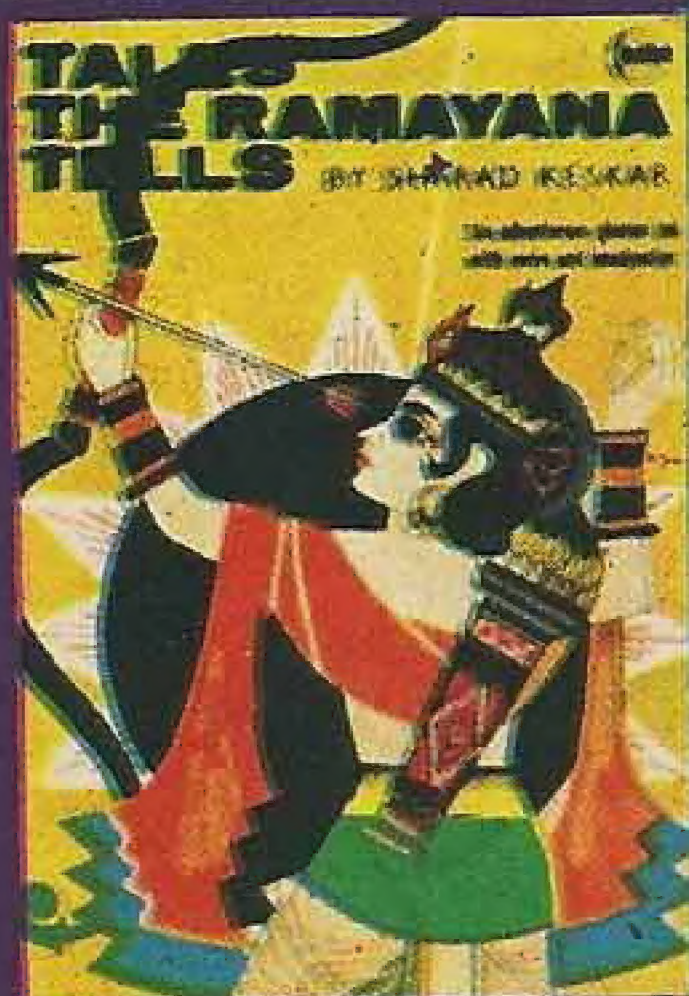
Mail in your coupons, once you have collected all twelve, to **INDIA BOOK HOUSE EDUCATION TRUST**, 12 Hassa Mahal, 223, Cuffe Parade, Bombay 400 005. Mention the title of your choice on the last coupon collected. There will be an **ECHO** coupon in every new **AMAR CHITRA KATHA**, starting from title No 61-Ghatotkacha. Make sure you don't miss a single new issue.

**COLLECT AMAR CHITRA KATHA**  
**COLLECT ECHO COUPONS** and then  
**COLLECT YOUR FREE ECHO BOOK**

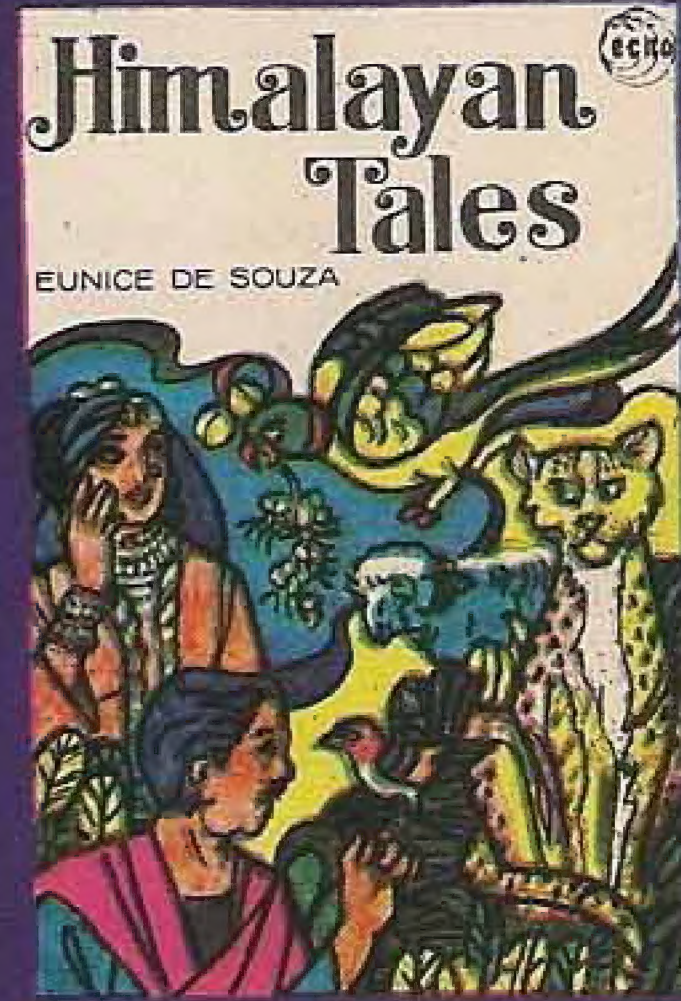
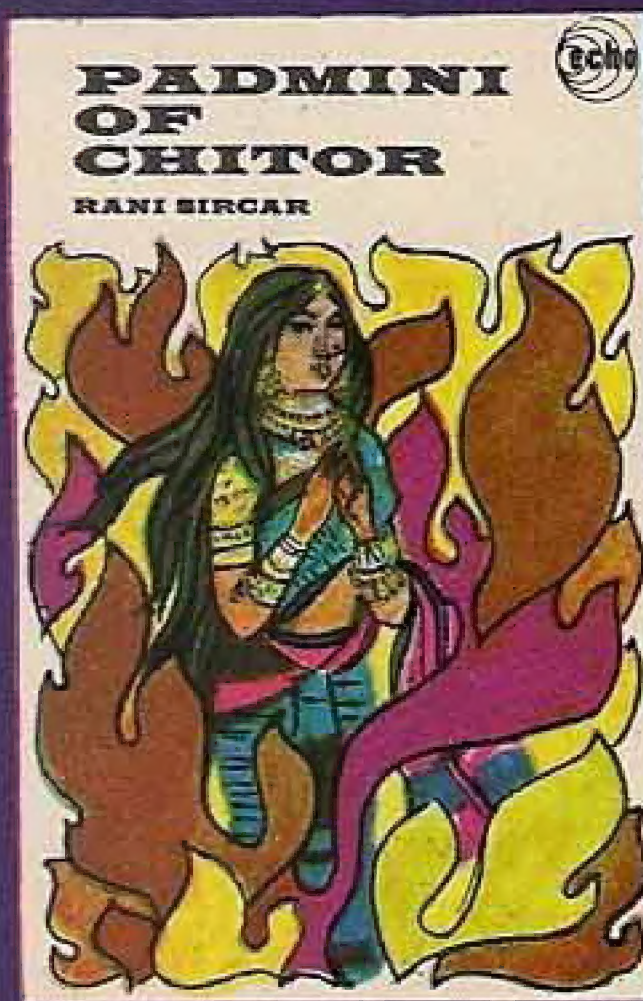
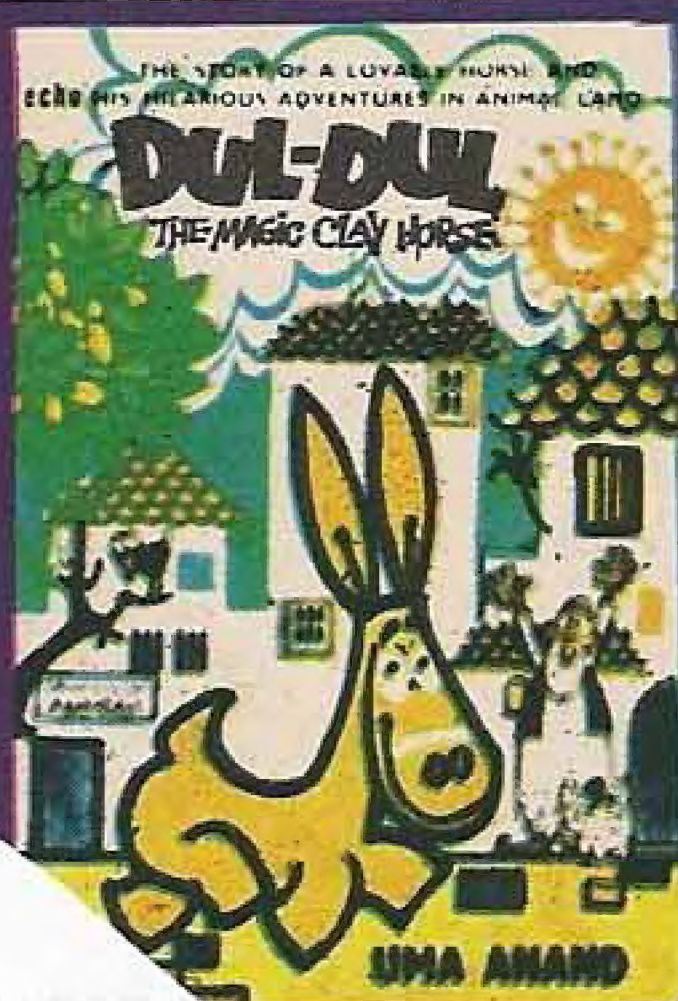
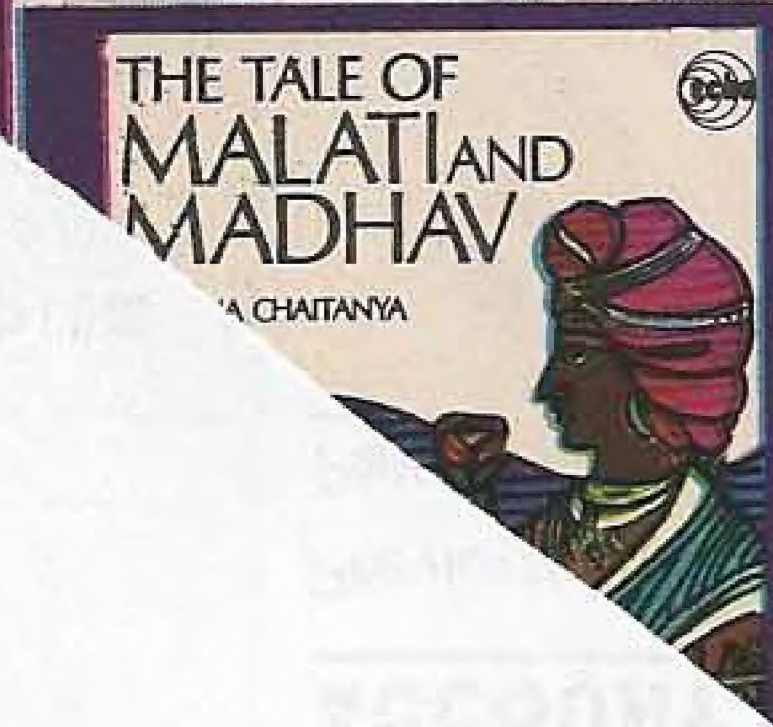
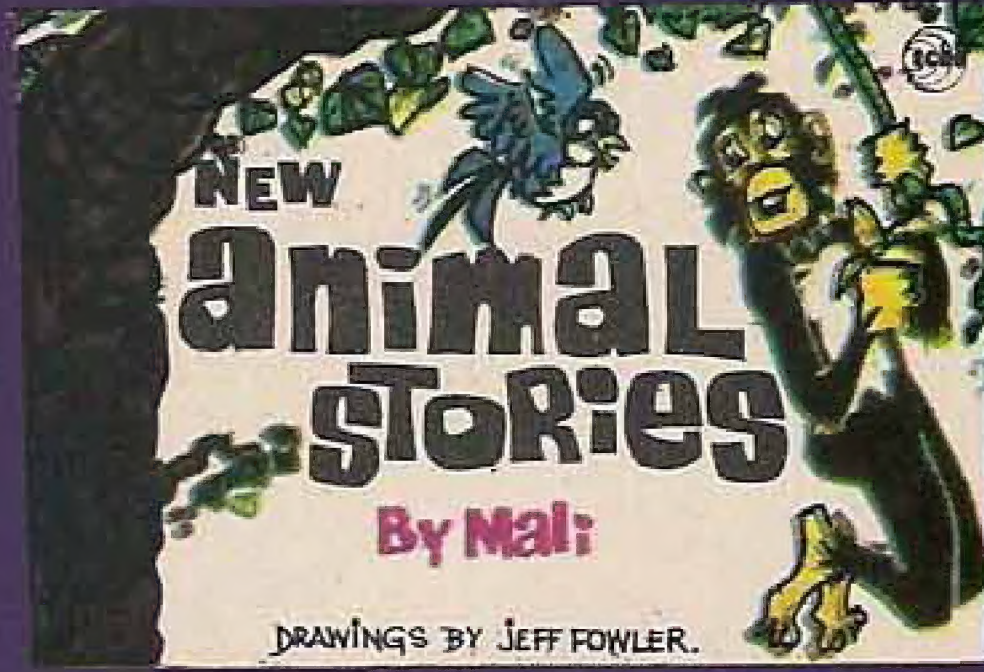
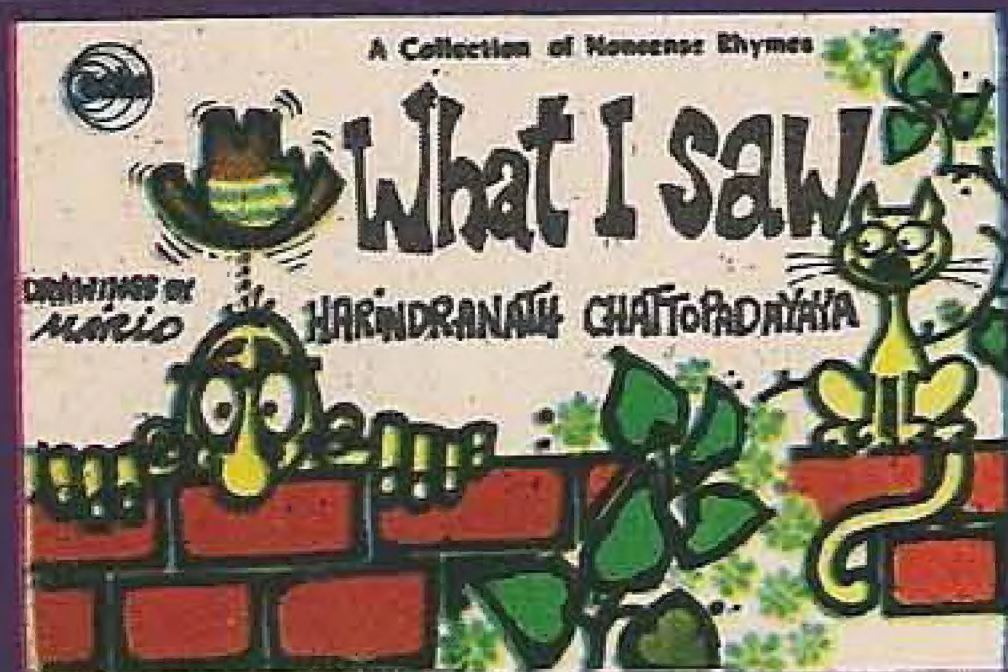
Build your home Library of  
**ECHO BOOKS & AMAR CHITRA KATHA.**

**12 COUPONS** will bring you **ONE** of  
these interesting **ECHO** Books **FREE.**  
Tear off and keep





# ECHO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



AT ALL BOOKSELLERS OR AT  
RASHTRAPATI ROAD, SECUNDERABAD-3.